



AFFORDABLE NEW HOMES PLANNED

Report by Kimberley Crayton-Brown

MORE than 100 homes will be built on a new estate in a multi-million pound scheme to create affordable housing in Dudley.

It is part of plans to build 350 homes in the borough over the next five years as part of a £40m investment.

More than £6m of the funding was confirmed earlier this year by Government and Dudley Council is now looking to find a partner to develop the first site and build 130 homes, some of which will be council housing.

The authority has published a public notice stating they propose to dispose of land forming part of the public open space at the rear of Midlepark Road and Russells Hall Road.

Councillor Gaye Partridge, cabinet member for housing services, said: "Following a successful bid from the Local Growth Fund, Dudley Council has published a tender document to select a house builder to build approximately 130 homes, of which the council will retain the ownership of 42 properties to add to its stock of council homes.

"The remainder of the homes will be sold by the selected partner.

"This forms part of Dudley's overall plan to deliver around 350 new council homes to meet local housing need over the next few years."

Environment

The house builder's proposals will be evaluated on the quality of the design and how it fits into the local environment, she said.

Cabinet members approved the plans last year, which will see £15.6m invested over the next three years to get the scheme off the ground.

As well as the £6.2m of Local Growth Funding, the council is looking to add a further £11.5m into the new build budget in 2018/19, spending a total of £40.6m over the next five years.

Among the areas which could have housing are former garage sites and the old archives building on Mount Pleasant Street in Coseley.

The former Wren's Nest Estate Office has also been earmarked for housing along with a site in Beech Road, Kingswinford, and the council will look to identify and develop additional sites subject to planning permission.

Meanwhile, in Coseley more than 60 acres of disused industrial land will be transformed to provide hundreds of homes and a supermarket under plans lodged.

Skelton Group Investments want to create the 925-home estate on three business parks in Coseley, branding the scheme Coseley Park.

Under the firm's outline application submitted to Dudley Council, all the site's existing buildings will be flattened except from a former municipal building which would be turned into offices. Of the 925 new homes mooted, 870 would be houses and 55 flats.

TOWPATH TRADERS IN FLOATING MARKET SUCCESS



Floating market trader Dave 'Croc' Lovell with his artwork that he makes from vinyl records under the name The Vinyl Cut

SHOPPERS stepped off dry land to see what was on sale at a market with a difference.

A floating market was docked at Merry Hill in its first appearance at the shopping centre.

Various items were on sale from the 11 narrowboats that moored at the canal side, with traders selling goods from jewellery and crafts to candies and plants.

The group of narrowboat based traders travel the waterways of the Midlands taking their markets to different towns along the canal network.

A return to the Black Country appears

likely after a successful debut weekend for the floating market in the heart of the Black Country.

Shoppers certainly got on board with the idea, with hundreds of people flocking to the waterside during the market's three-day stay.

Roving

The boats were lit up at night to providing an impressive display at The Embankment, off Level Street.

Floating trader Sandra Willis, who is part of the Roving Canal Traders Association, said:

"I think people are fascinated by the trading boats and our way of life, it's something a bit different."

The trader, who deals with animal lovers as she sells dog treats from her boat, believes the floating market could make a return to Merry Hill.

She said: "We normally judge how each market goes before deciding whether to come back, but this has been one of the most successful this year so I think we will definitely be coming back."

LITTER

Neighbours unite to clean up area

VOLUNTEERS have carried out a community clean-up amid growing frustration at the state of their neighbourhood.

Graffiti has been sprayed on property walls, litter dropped and rubbish accumulating near homes in Wordsley.

People living on the High Acres estate had contacted ward councillor Paul Brothwood eager for a clean-up to take place.

He organised the litter pick after a string of complaints from residents.

The team of volunteers collected eight bags of rubbish around Randall Close and Crabb Lane alleyway.

FREEMASONS

Heritage event held at masonic lodge

PEOPLE can get a rare glimpse inside a masonic lodge in Stourbridge during heritage celebrations this month.

Stourbridge Freemasons will showcase their meeting place at The Talbot Hotel next Saturday, September 12. The event is being held as part of the Heritage Open Days event run nationwide by English Heritage.

Visitors can attend between 10am and 5pm at the hotel in High Street and view the lodge, plus traditional dress and artefacts used by masons.

VIEWERS

Millions watched Lenny's TV drama

MILLIONS of viewers tuned in on Monday to watch the 'fantasy memoir' written by Dudley's favourite son, Sir Lenny Henry.

Danny and the Human Zoo, which aired at 9pm on BBC1, was a loose re-telling of the star's teenage years in the town during the 1970s.

It was filmed on location in the Black Country, including at Dudley Zoo, Buffery Park, the town's canal and the Netherton Tunnel.

Wednesbury resident Kascion Franklin starred as Danny Fearon – a fictional character based on the young Lenny – in his first lead role in a television play.

INSIDE

HISTORY IS SET IN STONE



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Lucky escape for a driver in accident



Picture by Haden Cross Fire

A DRIVER had a lucky escape after his car left the road and crashed into a tree in Dudley.

Emergency services were called around 5.30pm on Tuesday, August 25, to St Peter's Road, Netherton, after the car came off the street and ended up on its side on a grass embankment between lamp-posts and trees.

The car rolled down the embankment and was left badly damaged with its roof caving in.

The incident followed hours of heavy rain. The driver, a man his in 20s, was not badly hurt.

He managed to climb out the vehicle himself by squeezing through the sun-roof before emergency services arrived.

The road was closed for around half an hour as the car was pulled from the embankment.

Minor

Paramedics, firefighters from Haden Cross station and police attended.

Fire chiefs said the driver was 'very lucky' to escape serious injury.

Fire service spokesman Matthew Smith said the driver had suffered minor injuries. He was checked over by

paramedics at the scene and taken to Russells Hall Hospital as a precaution.

Mr Smith said: "One motor vehicle left the roadway and came to a rest on a grass verge on its side.

"No persons were trapped and one man removed himself from the vehicle prior to our arrival."

West Midlands Ambulance spokesman Jamie Arrowsmith said: "Apart from a few cuts to the back of his head, the male avoided any serious injury.

"He was immobilised as a precaution and taken to Russells Hall."

Cannabis haul found at former charity base

AROUND half a million pounds worth of cannabis was discovered growing in a former charity headquarters in Brierley Hill.

Police discovered 1,000 plants in a raid on the former We Love Carers premises.

It is one of the biggest recent hauls of drugs found by West Midlands Police's cannabis disposal team.

The team seized £2 million worth of the class B drug grown at sites across the West Midlands in July alone.

Officers smashed into the premises, in Pearson Street, near Asda supermarket, at around 1am on Tuesday morning, August 25.

Around 1,000 plants were discovered in various stages of growth at the building, close to Brierley Hill High Street. Investigations are still on ongoing after the police raid.

It is thought the building was at risk of sparking a major fire due to the cannabis factory operation with wiring and growing equipment packed inside.

Support

Cannabis plants, some measuring five to six feet tall, were grown in pots in what was once the function room. The room had been used by the charity for exhibitions and fundraising nights and events.

Large lighting rigs and ventilation fans towered over the plants in the room - alongside the club's former glitterball over what was the dance floor.

The main building was converted for offices and a community cafe where carers could meet for support groups.

The charity started out as Insight for Carers before it changed its name. The premises were known as Insight House.

A chaity spokesman confirmed it had moved out of the site in April and has been hosting sessions elsewhere.

It had previously been home to Brierley Hill Labour Club.

Mike Hall from West Midlands Police's cannabis team said: "This is early stages at the moment and investigations are ongoing. The information came in from a vigil member of the public.

"The building was also a very real fire risk with bypassed electricity feeding over a kilometre of improvised circuitry."

Victim urges culprits to own up



Hit-and-run victim John Rudge is recovering in Russells Hall Hospital after a van driver left him lying in the street

A PENSIONER who was left in a critical condition after a hit-and-run in Sedgley has urged the culprits to give themselves up to police.

John Rudge, aged 78, was left for dead after the shocking incident on August 13 on Bilston Street but he has made a remarkable recovery.

Mr Rudge said the van driver and passenger needed to give themselves up to police. Mr Rudge had been to the Spar store on the street before he stepped out to cross the

road and was knocked over by the van.

He hit his head on the road and suffered a concussion. The van driver circled back to check on his condition and then sped off. The van was dumped in Tipton.

Mr Rudge, who is a familiar face around Sedgley as he walks his dog Charlie every day, said: "I decided to go down to the shop to get some lard, walked in bought it and then went outside to step off the pavement.

"I did all the procedures, looking both ways but the van must have come around the corner so fast I didn't see it.

"After they knocked me over I've been told they drove back to look and see if I was okay and then they drove off.

Describing those responsible as 'scoundrels', Mr Rudge added: "I really hope they are caught."

Mr Rudge is hoping to return home this week and can't wait to see 'his little friend' Charlie.

Educational programmes at museum earn award

THE Black Country Living Museum has received a prestigious award for its on-site educational programmes and activities.

Recognising educational excellence, the Sandford Award looks at both formal and informal learning programmes to assess the impact on all visitors.

Around a quarter of the attraction's visitors are school groups since the Dudley museum caters for all key stages, providing a rich learning environment as well as a wealth of engaging, curriculum-linked workshops and activities.

These can include anything from Key Stage 2's History Detectives where classes will investigate the real lives of Black Country children from 1850 - 1945 to Age of Steam workshops where students will step inside a full-size replica of the world's very first steam engine.

Engaging

Mel Weatherly, Head of Learning, said: "We are absolutely delighted to have won this award.

"We strive to provide engaging learning experiences of the highest quality and historical authenticity for all our visitors, so it is fantastic to have this recognised.

"The award is a credit to the hard work and expertise of all our staff and volunteers."

Approximately 270,000 people visit the open-air museum each year to learn about one of the world's first industrial landscapes.

Uni honour for TV scriptwriter

THE writer of hit TV show Peaky Blinders is to receive an honorary doctorate from Birmingham City University.

Steven Knight, who was raised in Birmingham, is behind the show about the notorious crime gang, which filmed a number of scenes at the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley. He is being honoured in recognition of his achievements in the creative industries.

Knight has had four novels published and co-created the TV gameshow Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?.

"I am deeply honoured and thrilled to be receiving this award from Birmingham City University," he said.

"I've always been proud of Birmingham - for what the city has achieved in the past and for its potential in the future."

Plans lodged for veterinary surgery

A HAIRDRESSER'S shop could be turned into a veterinary surgery.

Darren Jennings from Manor Vets has applied to Dudley Council for a change of use for 111 Kent Road in Halesowen. The premises would be used mainly for 'CT scanning and associated services'.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Damage caused at shopping centre

YOBS have caused damaged to the roof of Stourbridge's Ryemarket Shopping Centre. Shoppers and staff have reported anti-social behaviour at the centre's car park.

Police say they have given two warning letter to youths.

Sgt Andy Holder from Wollaston and Stourbridge Town neighbourhood police team said: "Officers will continue with regular patrols at various times of the stairwell and car park areas.

"There has also been a report of criminal damage to the centre roof."

Music for all at community day

MUSIC to suit all tastes will be performed at a community day held to celebrate all that is good about Dudley borough.

Visitors will be able to enjoy rock, acoustic and choir performances at the Dudley COMMUNITY Day event on September 19. It will run from 10am until 4pm in Dudley town centre.

Bands taking part include Efflunko, Dead Happy, Bloco Louco, Target by Numbers and Archive.

There will also be performances by NN Dance & Cheer and a church choir and two drumming performances.

Microsoft course set up at college

DUDLEY College students will have access to some of the most advanced computer courses in the West Midlands following the launch of a Microsoft Office Specialist qualification.

The college joins more than 15,000 Microsoft IT Academies around the world.

The part-time course starts this month on Tuesday evenings at the Broadway Campus and will include specialist modules in Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

Healthy eating is on menu for next course

A COOKING course is being offered up to residents in Gornal to encourage healthier eating and increased physical activity.

Get Cooking! is a six week course that will help attendees cook healthy dishes on a budget.

The next course will start on Monday at Upper Gornal Pentecostal Church, in Eve Lane.

The latest course will run between 1.30pm and 3.30pm and will continue each Monday until October 12.

Car flips in accident

A CAR ended up on its roof in Wordsley. Four teenagers who were travelling in the vehicle escaped serious injury after the accident on Brierley Hill Road just before 7pm on Sunday.

A 17 year-old girl suffered a cut to her forehead. Another girl, 17, and two men aged 19 had minor injuries.

Construction snag delays start to the new term

PARENTS are angry after it emerged the start of a primary school's new term will be delayed.

The summer break will be extended by one week at Manor Primary School in Coseley, pushing back the term start date from September 7 to September 14.

The work to build new classrooms at the school in Ettingshall Road is the first phase of a project to see the school capacity rise to 630 by 2021.

Headteacher Anita Cliff said: "Unfortunately the building work to increase classrooms ready for our increase in standard number in September is not going to be finished for the start of term. Builders have worked late into the evenings and weekends to try and complete the job.

"We are very sorry that we are going to have to delay the start of term for our children."

A parent from Bilston, who has a son and a daughter at the school, said: "I am a working parent and no provision has been made for childcare. I would be interested to know what would happen if I took my children out for a week."

Claire Drake, education boss at Wolverhampton City Council, said: "Unfortunately, unavoidable supply chain delays have meant that this particular programme is running a few days behind schedule and it has therefore been necessary to delay the opening of the school. We apologise for the inevitable inconvenience this will cause. Parents have been advised at the earliest opportunity."

Store plan at pub to go ahead

ELEVENTH hour talks with Marston's have ended in disappointment for campaigners fighting to save a popular pub.

Bill Etheridge MEP, who has led the campaign to prevent the Seven Stars in Sedgley, from being turned into a Morrisons supermarket, met with Marston's boss Ralph Findlay.

The Sedgley councillor said Mr Findlay confirmed the plans would go ahead. Dudley Council had refused permission but an appeal was upheld by the Planning Inspectorate.

He said: "I will not give up on trying to save this pub until the doors close."

Last month up to 20 campaigners from the pub protested against the closure outside the brewers' offices in Wolverhampton.

Body found in car parked at hospital

THE body of a woman was found in a car in the grounds of Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital on Friday.

It comes after a 46-year-old woman was reported missing. The death is not being treated as suspicious.

Series celebrates importance of canals



Titford Pump House, Oldbury

A NEW series celebrating canal systems across the region will look at the role the waterways played in building the nation.

The Black Country and Staffordshire will feature in the BBC series, Canals: The Making of a Nation, on October 6.

Liz McIvor will make her way along the Worcester and Birmingham canal route, telling a deeper story of how our waterways helped change our lives – and how that legacy lives on today.

Ms McIvor, an expert in industrial

history and curator at Bradford Industrial Museum, aims to show viewers just how instrumental canals were in shaping our modern world and how they came to be.

She said: "Each canal has its own special interest story and each region covered gave a chance to explore a different angle of a massive story."

During the West Midlands episode Ms McIvor visits the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct in Wales, and travels to Birmingham where canals have become catalysts for property development and urban regeneration.

Tony Parker, the show's executive producer, said: "We wanted to tell a different story about canals and look at their wider impact and significance in terms of our history."

"Canals have given us so much over the centuries, and continue to do so. Perhaps it is time to build a few more."

The West Midlands episode Canals – the Making of a Nation (Heritage) will be shown on BBC Four on October 6 at 8pm, as part of the full series which includes other regions across the UK.

Council finances are 'heading towards a cliff'

COUNCIL budgets 'are heading towards a cliff' because of £10 billion worth of extra costs, says a long-serving Dudley councillor.

Reviews of business rates, cuts in rents and a planned increase in the minimum wage will add to the difficult decisions faced by councils already reeling from cuts to their Government grants, says former Dudley Council leader Councillor David Sparks.

The past chairman of The Local Government Association (LGA), which represents 370 authorities in England and Wales, says the Chancellor risks putting a burden on councils that can only be met by scaling back services or cutting them completely.

"Local government finance has been heading towards a cliff for several years," said Councillor Sparks. "The decision to further reduce the ability of local authorities to control their costs brings that cliff nearer and nearer."

"The LGA has to fight this Government's proposals as they mean it is going to be increasingly difficult, if not impossible, in local authorities like Dudley to make ends in future years."

Reduce

Dudley Council is trying to reduce its spending by £30 million a year as cuts have become a way of life across the West Midlands. But the LGA believes the upcoming spending review in November will bring new pressures.

It has calculated Government policies over the next five years will cost councils £6.3 billion by 2020. This is on top of the £3.6 billion to maintain services at their current level based on demand and inflation.

Costs include exempting house builders from Section 106 payments, which are levies placed on developers to fund road layouts and other local projects. The Government believes removing these levies, worth on average £15,000 per home, will get 200,000 starter homes built as developers pass on the saving.

Other pressures include setting aside £1.75 billion to cover the high volume of business rate appeals expected after the 2017 revaluation.

Also, councils are expecting to have to face costs when Universal Credit is rolled out to housing benefit claimants. The claimants will get the money paid directly to them, rather than the councils, meaning authorities will have to chase those who get into debt.



Sean Lannon, left, and Lee Felton, in the rowing machine fundraiser at Merry Hill ahead of the challenge to row across the Atlantic

Oarsome task to row the Atlantic

AN adventurer from Dudley is undertaking an oar-some task, rowing across the Atlantic for charity.

Lee Felton will join three other fundraisers for the challenge, none of whom have rowed before. The task will take them from the Canary Islands to Antigua in the Caribbean.

Lee and Sean Lannon drummed up support for the event at the Merry Hill centre. Using rowing machines they are covering the distance from Bristol to Newcastle over nine days, clocking up the number of miles to the next stop on the way before driving them.

The team needs to raise £80,000 just to make it to the start line and so far have reached £10,000.

The 31-year-old gave up his job as a biology teacher in Dubai to focus on the mission. He said: "I got a little bit bored of teaching and fancied another challenge."

The former Summerhill School pupil has joined Dudley Rowing Club at Netherton Reservoir and is undergoing a rigorous safety course.

Support the team at squareoneatlantic.com

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



HOW will the collapse of the stock market in China affect us? According to the experts, your energy bills could get smaller. Petrol could get cheaper. Mortgage rates could stay low for longer. Funny sort of crisis.

THE master of the one-liner, Milton Jones, is telling audiences at the Edinburgh Festival: "I come from a family of failed magicians: I've got two half-sisters."

I SMILED at a feature in one of those "Your Money" supplements in which a couple, both aged 42, wanted advice on how best to save for their "gap year" treat. It is to be a round-the-world trip, with their daughter who is now aged two, when mum and dad are 60. The financial gurus duly gave their advice on stocks, shares and Isas. And not one of them raised the question every parent was surely shouting at the page: What sort of 20-year-old girl will be seen dead with her aged parents on a globe-trotting jaunt? The two-year-old moppet you know and love today will be nothing like the self-willed woman 18 years away. Spend the money now.

THE musical Les Misérables had its C4 premiere a few days ago, starring a galaxy of fine singers, and Russell Crowe. And while it is all very moving and stirring, does anyone honestly have a clue what's going on? We are told that the new king is unpopular and life is grim but there is not a single line to explain why folk were prepared to die in the 1832 June Rebellion. The conflict sprang from an unholy mix of crop failures, cholera, workers' uprisings and political despair. What the movie lacks is a scene-setting page of text (maybe like Star Wars: "A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away..."). Why are Les Misérables so damn miserable? We should be told.



SEPP Blatter insists: "The institution (Fifa) is not corrupt. There is no corruption in football. There is corruption with individuals. It is the people." I am reminded of the industrialist who declared his factory was unfairly blamed for polluting a lake when the pollution was actually caused by all those dead fish.

AMID the furore over the Met Office losing its contract to supply the BBC with weather information, my vote goes to whoever can hold our attention. There is something very strange about weather forecasts, especially on the radio. No matter how hard you try to concentrate, no matter how eagerly you listen out for your own specific region, after a couple of sentences, the bulletin goes all mumbledeumblededeoombledewobbledoo and the next thing you hear is: "Finally, for north-west Scotland." Time after time.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Creepy 'Coseley Spider' fossil on display

AN incredible fossil, dating back 315 million years, is on show in Wolverhampton.

Nicknamed the Coseley Spider, the Eophrynus Prestivici is on display as part of an exhibition that celebrates the region's geological history.

It was discovered at the old Parkfield Colliery in the 1800s. Experts say it shows the early

evolution of spiders and is an important international example. It features as part of the Riches Beneath Us exhibition at Bantock House, which runs until November 15.

The exhibition is the largest display of Wolverhampton's impressive geology collection in decades and features around 100 artefacts of fascinating fos-

sils, many collected from the Black Country's collieries and limestone mines.

Jon Clatworthy, director of the Lapworth Museum of Geology at the University of Birmingham, said: "It is wonderful that the Coseley Spider is going on show for the first time in Wolverhampton, not far from where it was first found more

than 100 years ago. Although it carries the nickname it is not actually a spider but rather an extinct relative of modern spiders."

The Coseley Spider is currently on loan to Wolverhampton Art Gallery from the Lapworth and is one of only two examples of Eophrynus Prestivici ever found.



The Coseley Spider

Shop owner faces unpaid work over illegal cigs

A SHOP owner has been told to carry out unpaid work after nearly 100 illicit packets of cigarettes and tobacco were found at his store.

Officers from Dudley Council trading standards discovered 76 packets of cigarettes and 23 packets of hand rolling tobacco – none of which had UK duty paid on them – at Russell's Hall Post Office, Dudley.

Of those, 40 packets of cigarettes and eight packets of tobacco were counterfeit.

Shop owner Mohammed Janjua stood before Dudley magistrates on August 13 and pleaded guilty to four offences including possessing for supply of counterfeit cigarettes and tobacco and being concerned in the acquisition, use or possession of criminal property for which duty had not been paid.

He was given a 12 month community order including a two month night-time curfew and 80 hours unpaid work. His personal licence to sell alcohol was suspended for four months and he must pay £1,000 costs.

Janjua's son, Kalif Coady, pleaded guilty to similar offences on June 26 and handed a eight-week jail term suspended for 12 months, with 100 hours community service and costs of £1,100.

Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member responsible for health, said: "We support legitimate businesses that comply with the law and have zero tolerance of any businesses dealing in illegal tobacco and will prosecute in all cases."

Heartache as bride's driver dies in tragedy

Report by Rob Gollledge

NATALIE Baker's wedding was the happiest day of her life – made 'extra special by a special man' in a gleaming car.

But just two months from becoming man and wife, she and husband Stan watched in horror and disbelief as the wreckage of that same pristine Daimler was amongst the debris of the Shoreham air disaster.

Mrs Baker, aged 21, felt her heart drop as she feared the worst for her charming driver Maurice Abrahams. A few hours later, he was confirmed among the 11 that died.

"We first saw a picture of the car on Facebook and immediately recognised it," she said. "We are both totally shocked. It is so terrible.

"It hits you that this was my home town and I grew up just half hour away."

Natalie, nee Bowyer, married Stan, 57, in West Sussex on June 27 – just a few miles when the ill-fated jet crashed.

She said of chauffeur Mr Abrahams: "He made our special day even more special for being there and for telling me my husband is a lucky guy and that I was a gorgeous young lady."

"He told me in the car 'live life to the full, don't ever let anything stop you'. That I will never forget. He will be terribly missed."

Driving

The newlyweds now live in The Parade, Dudley and have been glued to the news as the tributes to Mr Abrahams poured in.

The father-of-two, 76, from Brighton, was driving his beloved Daimler to pick up bride-to-be Rebecca Sheen to drive her to her wedding in Findon when the vintage Hawker Hunter jet crashed.

Natalie, originally from Sompting in West Sussex, said: "I lived in West Sussex all my life and only just moved to Dudley. Everyone knew him by the wedding car, proms and special occasions."

"He was just amazing. He made me laugh and made sure everyone else was ok and had a great time. He was a top bloke, a true gentleman. There are not many of his kind around and it is hard to put into words."

"Our thoughts go out to his family and everyone else who knows him. God knows what the it must be like for them. He was a true family man."

Mr Abrahams was an ex-paratrooper, Grenadier Guard and a former Hampshire policeman as well as a pillar of the community acting as chauffeur to scores of brides over 20 years.

Pilot Andy Hill is still in a critical condition in hospital.



Natalie Baker and the Daimler wedding car driven by tragic Maurice Abrahams



Newlyweds Natalie and Stan Baker



Emergency services at the scene in Horsham

Free eye tests for Belarus children

CHILDREN affected by the legacy of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster visited a Stourbridge opticians for free eye tests.

The 13 youngsters from Belarus were welcomed to Specsavers in High Street for the eye examinations and were given glasses if needed.

The visit was organised by Chernobyl Children Life Line, a charity which arranges respite trips to the UK for children who are affected by the legacy of the 1986 disaster.

Store director Jason Bridgewater said: "Unfortunately, the majority of these children do not have access to any kind of eyecare so without visits like this, their eyesight could deteriorate. Having corrective glasses can make an enormous difference to their quality of life."

Inquest into OAP's swimming pool death

WORCESTERSHIRE Coroners' Court has adjourned an inquest into the death of Raymond Short, aged 79, of Blackberry Lane, Halesowen, who was discovered at the bottom of a swimming pool at DW Sports and Fitness Centre in Kidderminster.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Summer fete has £10,000 target

COMMUNITY support is needed to raise £10,000 at a hospice's summer fete.

Mary Stevens Hospice is holding the fete in its grounds this weekend to raise funds for patients.

It takes place on Saturday, from 11.30am in Hagley Road, Stourbridge.

Activities include a Black Country Bake Off, a best homemade fancy dress competition for children and a dog show. There will also be zorb, bouncy castles and fairground rides.

Entry is £2 for adults and £1 for children.

Action demand on graffiti mess

A COUNCILLOR has called for a clean-up after graffiti was sprayed on fences and litter thrown near homes in Kingswinford.

Rubbish has collected around the alley near Randall Close, which people say is blighting the area.

Councillor Paul Brothwood has been contacted over the issue and has urged immediate action. He has asked Dudley Council to remove the graffiti and tidy the alley nearby.

Councillor Brothwood said: "It is a great shame that a few idle people can create such a mess."

Time traveller talks at meeting

RACONTEUR John Sparry will be the guest speaker at the next meeting of the Amblecote History Society, which takes place on Wednesday at 7.30pm in the Lehr Theatre at The Ruskin Centre in Amblecote.

Mr Sparry will be adopting the theme of a 'Being a Time Traveller'.

Visitors are welcome at a charge of £2.

To learn more about the society and access articles and photographs of the area, visit www.amblecotehistorysociety.org.uk website.

New deadline to secure future of Hippodrome

COUNCILLORS have set a fresh timetable to decide Dudley Hippodrome's fate.

Proposals to safeguard the theatre's future must be submitted by September 30. Interested parties will then have until October 9 to submit any further information.

A panel will look in detail at all final offers before a final decision by the end of the year. Council bosses say proposals must include a 'thorough, realistic and deliverable business plan'.

Shops row revamp

A ROW of shops that have been derelict for decades are undergoing a revamp to bring them back into use.

Two of the three empty stores in Sandringham Place, Wordsley, which have been the target of anti-social behaviour, could even be open in time for Christmas.

Group left disgusted at amount of rubbish

LITTER-PICKERS say a road in Stourbridge has become a 'dumping ground' after filling 20 bags with rubbish in one evening.

Volunteers with the Tidy Stourbridge group took it on themselves to clear Mill Race Lane after they were disgusted by the amount of litter that had piled up.

Nappies and condoms were among items that had been discarded, with bottles, cans and other rubbish also prevalent.

Litter was also strewn across an alleyway leading off the road to the Penfields.

But despite all of their hard work, Dave Colley, who leads the group, predicted that members will soon have to return.

It was the fifth time in as many years that the group had focuses their efforts on Mill Race Lane, with bag after bag filled with rubbish.

Mr Colley said: "It is more to do with the night-time economy and people coming back from the town centre. It's a bit of a walk through so a lot of it gets dumped, and being so close to the ring road, whatever is there ends up down Mill Race Lane.

"There are bins but people don't bother using them."

Mr Colley, aged 42, who splits his time fighting litter louts with his job as a courier, believes there will always be plenty of work for the group to do.

He said: "If there was money in getting stuff off the street kids would be happy to pick it up themselves and make a bit of money out of it."

Volunteers carry out litter-picking

LITTER picks have taken place in Wordsley in a crackdown against anti-social behaviour.

Volunteer wardens in the Wordsley Street Watch scheme have been out on patrol in the area. They hit the streets surrounding Wordsley Green Shopping Centre and Wordsley Park.

The street watch group was formed with support from neighbourhood officers at West Midlands Police. Ward councillor Derrick Hemingsley, chairman of the Friends of Wordsley park group, said: "Street Watch is a scheme run by the community for the community in partnership with the police.

"During our Street Watch we added a litter pick to our patrol and found the litter in our park has dropped since we introduced Street Watch."

Charity dog show to help raise funds

AN animal charity is celebrating its third anniversary with a charity dog show near Stourbridge. Dudley's Ravens Rescue holds the annual show from 11am on Sunday during South Staffs horse show at Prestwood Drive.

Carjacker jailed over outstanding £30



Richard Halford

THIS is the violent car-jacker who ran down a young woman in her own car – over an outstanding £30 grocery debt.

Richard Halford, from Kingswinford, was locked up for four years and 10 months for the violent robbery.

West Midlands Police Detective Constable Shelley Punshon said Halford 'had a long jail term to think about stupidity of his actions'.

The victim, aged 26, was dragged out of the £15,000 Ford Mondeo by Halford and an accomplice who had lured her to a late-night meeting over the debt.

She arrived at the rendezvous near

Crestwood School in Bromley Lane, Kingswinford, shortly after midnight on April 27, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

West Midlands Police say she handed over £120 to service a £150 debt. But Halford grabbed her around the neck on hearing some of the debt was still outstanding.

Halford's accomplice went through her pockets until he found the Mondeo key and the victim was man-handled out of the car. Halford and his pal sped away, hitting the 26-year-old and leaving her needing hospital treatment. She injured her leg and ankle after falling under the wheels while trying in vain to stop the

pair driving away. They later crashed into parked cars in Milking Bank, Dudley, and were found walking nearby in Limepits Lane by night shift response officers.

Halford, aged 20, from Rowen Rise, admitted driving the Mondeo but was not at the wheel when it either ran over the woman or crashed, pleaded guilty to robbery, drink driving and having no insurance. He was given four years, 10 months detention in a Young Offenders Institution and banned from driving for 12 months. Another man, aged 20, is due to appear in court next month on suspicion of being involved in the robbery.

Lack of road investment costing business billions

A LACK of investment in the Black Country's road network is costing businesses in the region's billions of pounds, say commerce leaders.

Colin Leighfield, transport chief of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, says the region 'is now being held in complete disregard'.

He expects delays to major transport projects in the West Midlands, calling them 'completely unacceptable', at a time the Government had accepted plans for a £5bn rerouting of the M25 as part of the expansion of London's Heathrow Airport.

Mr Leighfield said "We have calculated the cost of road delays across the region and it is at least £2.5 billion. It is frankly absurd that our businesses are being penalised by successive government failure to address real transport needs and to fritter vehicle excise duty in areas that are nothing to do with transport.

"We have seen figures that show that for every £1 spent on improving roads it provides £4 in economic growth and so wonder why successive governments have failed to invest."

He said due to an overspend on rail infrastructure and investment plans over the next five years projects like Midlands Connect will not be considered for another 10 years.

Midlands Connect aims to turn the Midlands into a transport hub for the whole country.

He said: "This is completely unacceptable especially at a time when the Secretary of State for Transport has accepted the Davies Commission recommendation to expand Heathrow and with it the £5 billion on rerouting the UK's busiest road, the M25.

Engine

"We do not know if the £5 billion includes the cost of a tunnel but it represents more than six times the annual capital spend on the West Midlands public transport infrastructure."

Mr Leighfield added: "We have criticised politically driven prejudice towards the Northern strategy; it appears that the Midlands Engine is now being held in complete disregard in favour of both the North and South.

He also warned that the Calais migrant crisis risked making businesses uncompetitive.

"The cost of the delays and the inherent danger to drivers is simply not acceptable," said Mr Leighfield. "Furthermore, when drivers do report illegal immigrants in their wagons, their companies are being fined."

Chernobyl children visit club



Children from Chernobyl spent the day as guests of Wollaston Tennis Club as part of a visit to the UK

MORE than 20 youngsters from Belarus enjoyed a day of sporting activities when they paid a visit to a tennis club.

The youngsters were in the Stourbridge area as part of a month-long visit organised through the Chernobyl Children's Lifeline charity for youngsters from the area still affected by a Soviet era nuclear accident in 1986.

One of the venues was Wollas-

ton Tennis Club, in Prestwood Drive, Stourton, where the 24 children took part in activities under the instruction of club coach Richard Cartwright. They were also treated to food as the tennis club put on a barbecue.

Wollaston Tennis Club hosted a group for the first time in 2013 and followed this up again in 2014.

Chairman John Cutler said: "It is great to have the opportunity of hosting the group of children

again. Our members, who volunteered to help on the day, enjoyed getting involved as much as the children who visited. Members who couldn't make the event helped in other ways, donating money and items.

"As previous visits to the club have been such successful days, we were keen they are keen to repeat the event again."

Chernobyl Children's Lifeline is organised locally by Ann Becke.

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

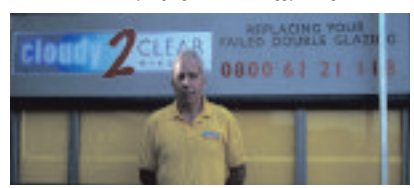
Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Mistress mischief of females and emails

IT turns out that adultery website Ashley Madison is not quite the hotbed of illicit encounters its users were hoping for.

According to data expert AnnaLee Ne-witz, most of the female profiles were reg-istered to email addresses which ended in the name of the company. And while 20 million randy men had been fervently checking their inboxes in the hope of receiving a steamy message, only 1,492 women bothered to open their inbox.

For some reason, the blokes were a bit shy about going to trading standards.

It reminds me of the age-old scam about the company with a risque-sounding name which advertised bargain-priced 'adult toys' by mail order. The goods never came, but all customers were sent a full refund – in the form of a cheque with the company name emblazoned across the top in large letters, most of which were disposed of.

NOW I've never really understood how 'anarchic' artist Banksy has become the darling of the London luvvies. Take away all the hype and pretentious arty talk, and, well, he's just a vandal.

Anyway, his latest wheeze is a theme park in Weston-super-Mare where the security staff are trained to be rude and inefficient, where all customers are sub-jected to over-zealous body searches, and where the main attractions are a man selling balloons with the words "I am an imbecile" on them, and a children's at-traction offering payday loans.

One day the website crashed – which many punters thought was actually part of the experience – because six million people had been trying to buy tickets.

Well, as the saying goes, a fool and his money are easily parted. I just never knew there were so many of them around.

I TOOK advantage of the brief respite from the downpours to take a walk on Monday. After five miles in the misty drizzle, I slumped into a chair tired, light-headed, and gasping for a pint. So spare a thought for Penkridge window cleaner Mark Vaz, who last week broke the world record for running the most marathons in consecutive days. And still doing his window cleaning round.

In the last few days Mark has suffered from food poisoning, and has had to do several of his runs with his leg in band-age because of an injury he has picked up. He will soon be two-thirds of his way through his target of 90 marathons in 90 days in aid of pregnancy charity Tommy's and Katharine House Hospice in Stafford.

Unbelievably, some idiots have taken to so-called social media to deliver un-pleasant and personal abuse. Can I sug-gest that anybody who wishes to show their contempt for these idiots does so by sponsoring Mark £5? Because I think he has earned it.



Celebrating with Paul Carty during Hednesford's cup run



Settling into his role as Dudley College finance director



Young Andy Comyn in his Villa Park days

Andy's new career is Comyn up trumps

An ex-pro player is proving there is life after football by carving out a new career.

DAVID COSGROVE reports

LIFE after football can be tough for many ex-professionals.

Cocooned in the game from an early age, many footballers don't know anything other than life in the sport.

Without any extra qualifications, or life experience, it can be hard to turn to another vocation when age and injury brings careers to an end.

But Andy Comyn, the former Aston Villa and Albion defender, is an exception to the rule.

Comyn has gone on to enjoy a successful second career after stepping away from the professional game in the 1990s and has joined Dudley College as vice principal for financial strategy and control.

The 47-year-old, who also played for Plym-outh and Derby, left pro football in 1996, but went on to represent Hednesford Town in the non-league and was part of their famous run to the FA Cup fourth round.

Bubble

He admits that while his career has panned out well since, he has felt regret at what might have been, as he left the professional game aged just 28.

Comyn, who was brought up in Stockport, joined Manchester United's youth set-up aged 16.

Even as a teenager he had his head screwed on and wanted to get an education, rather than simply enjoy life in the footballing bubble.

"I was always planning to go off to univer-sity," he said.

"Football is a fantastic career now and the money is unbelievable. At the time I was play-ing the money would've been slightly better than people would've paid elsewhere to a gradu-ate – but not significantly so.

"I think one reason for wanting to study at university was because around about that era



Ex-footballer Andy Comyn with the shirts he wore with pride for Villa and the Baggies

you had the likes of Seb Coe who was really successful in athletics and he was at uni in Loughborough.

"For some reason I had it in my head that I wanted to go to Loughborough, which had fantastic sporting facilities and a great sport-ing tradition.

"That was just in my head from a young age – but after all that time thinking it would be Loughborough I ended up going to Birming-ham to study physics instead."

In fact, Comyn, who plied his footballing trade as a centre half, nearly didn't have a professional career at all, after being released by United while still at university.

Nearing the end of his final year studying – and with no career mapped out – he sent hopeful letters out to a couple of clubs in the Midlands, and it paid dividends.

Comyn, who had played for Alvechurch dur-

ing his time in Birmingham, said: "I was get-ting towards the end of that year and deciding what I was going to do with myself.

"Then I decided to write off to Wolves and Villa – I don't know why only those two clubs, but that's what I did.

"I didn't hear anything back from Wolves but got a call from (Villa assistant manager) John Ward inviting me down to training.

"I couldn't go as it was right in the middle of my finals but thankfully we rearranged it."

Villa boss Graham Taylor saw Comyn play 45 minutes of a practice match and snapped him up. He made his debut against Liverpool at Villa Park and spent two years at the club – during which he played 90 minutes in a celebrated UEFA Cup win at home to Inter Milan – before moving on to Derby and Plymouth.

While he was at the former, he successfully completed a book-keeping course at Sutton

College, to make sure he kept his future car-er options open. After a two-month spell at Albion in 1996, he faced a big decision. "At the end of that season, manager Alan Buckley of-fered me a two-year contract," he explained.

"But he made it very clear to me that I was going to be the fourth choice centre half and I told him that was no good for me.

"I was about to turn 28 and wanted to be playing regularly so I turned them down and was considering what to do."

But Comyn was approached by Hednesford Town boss John Baldwin who said he was interested. Baldwin owned two accountancy practices and said he could get the defender a job.

This offered him a chance to make the most of his book-keeping qualification, a solid career and a chance to carry on playing football to a decent level – so he felt it was the right move.

However, events at West Brom did make his question his decision to quit.

Injured

"I ended up working full-time in Walsall and training two or three times a week, it was ideal. The only time I've really had any sense of regret was after I left West Brom.

"Obviously Buckley had said I would be the fourth choice in central defence.

"But within the first few weeks of the season at least two of the centre halves got injured and that was the time I thought 'if only'.

"If I'd still been there I would've got a chance and you don't know what might have happened."

He says he enjoyed his spell at Hednesford, starring in the club's famous 1996-97 FA Cup run – in which they lost to subsequent final-ists Middlesbrough – and turned out for Eng-land's non-league side.

Andy finally hung up his boots in 2001 after a year at Halesowen and has thrown himself into his new career – working at the likes of Grant Thornton, Deloitte and Wragge & Co.

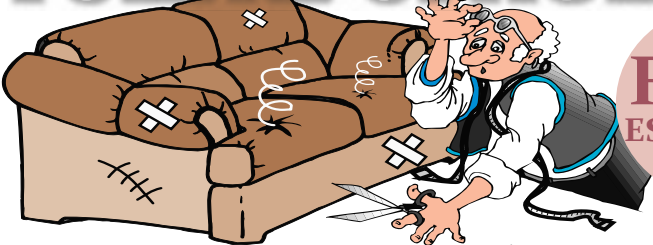
He is looking forward to his new challenge at Dudley College. "I've loved it so far. There's passion and commitment from the staff and a desire to keep improving.

"There are brand new buildings and a lot of investment has happened and will continue to happen."

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Baffled by shortage of applicants

THOSE wonderful Labour people running Dudley have appointed a temporary head honcho over children's services and reckon she's a snip at a mere 8000 quid a day.

We are told this is necessary as you just can't get the staff these days no matter how many tens of thousands over the 100k you offer. The lady in question is Merlin Joseph and is probably employed to wave an industrial strength magic wand to sort out Dudley Children's Services.

Though instructed back in 2012 by Ofsted when under the purview of the

previous Tory regime to get its house in order within three to six months, these services are still in a problematic state.

Once more, Ukip's small band of councillors are performing a valuable local service delving into the cosy relationships and shortcomings which have existed between the two main parties.

What is difficult to understand is why there should be a problem in recruitment. As far as I'm concerned, I cannot understand why, for the salary being offered, there is not a queue of excellent applicants. The art of man-

agement is to have good people below you who have specialist knowledge, set out goals and ensure by reason of diligent testing and feedback that these are achieved.

The chaos in many public service situations usually stems from a failure of those at the top to adopt professionally accepted management methods. To my mind, if you have been trained and have extensive experience of management in whatever field, your abilities are transferable.

A M ETHERIDGE
Sedgley

Japan was responsible for own war

RE: The use of atomic bombs on Japan

Certainly the war was started in Europe because despite assurances from Germany that they would cease their annexing of other nations, they still invaded Poland to get Danzig.

No one suggested that Japan caused this conflict. Japan started its own war with its unprovoked attacking of Pearl Harbor and then quickly overran other nations before America and Britain could respond.

When the time came to recapture these territories, the Americans lost thousands of men and realised the final action involving the invasion of the Japanese mainland would result in many more men being killed.

Japan was called upon to surrender but refused to give in so the first bomb was unleashed. Again they were asked to surrender which again they rejected hence the second bomb was dropped. Eventually they did surrender.

J POSTINGS
Stourbridge

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Police can expect no support from public

OVER the last few weeks there have been some unusual headlines. For instance, it's been reported that seven West Midlands primary school pupils under 12 have been placed on a list of those at risk of radicalisation or extremism.

I sometimes wonder why mosques can't do more to stop these fanatics who appear to go at any lengths to press their misguided cause particularly if they are targeting children.

I don't think the West Midlands Police will have a lot of support from the public after refusing to publish the details of 10 men wanted for serious crimes as it could affect their human rights. The odd thing is Crimewatch on BBC TV show pictures of ten criminals and all about them in the hope that somebody has information that could bring them to justice. Then we read that the WMP have sent two officers to Magaluf to check on the behaviour of British tourists, but we are told their shift finishes early on before things could start to kick off.

For a change I heard on the radio an out-of-touch chairman of a leading charity telling us Britain can afford to take thousands of refugees despite the fact that in all probability hundreds of illegals are pouring into Britain every week, and we don't appear to be able to do anything about it.

A P Cuff, Stourbridge

Sympathy for PoWs

G FANTHOM, Chronicle, August 27, is right, the Japanese did not start the war in Europe. What they did was an unprovoked attack on the US Naval base Pearl Harbor. Perhaps America should not have dropped the bombs but shortly after the war in Japan ended.

If you have any sympathy give it to the men taken POW by the Japanese who were beaten and starved.

D E WALKER
Dudley

On the way to a full house

LOWER Gornal, Hagley, Old Hill; an eclectic mix of the West Midlands, all with one thing in common - threatened closure of their Barclays bank branch.

Identical 'reasons' are given for the closures, which cannot possibly be correct. 'Let them eat the cake' - of closures, inconvenience and the wishes of local opinion. Barclays is well on the way to a full house of excuses.

P A LANGFORD
Dudley

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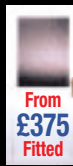
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Councillor Ahmed at the Duncan Edwards plaque



Plaque centres on the Finch family halfpenny



A Time Trail plaque about Dudley Castle



Dudley rock maker Teddy Gray poses in his van



Football legend, Busby Bade Duncan Edwards

Charting town's history in commemorative trail

HISTORIC events from Dudley's history are being set in stone across the town.

A bomb explosion during the Second World War and the unveiling of a statue dedicated to footballing hero Duncan Edwards are among those being commemorated.

Landmarks such as the Teddy Gray's sweet shop and Dudley Castle as well as famous people such as world spring jumping champion Joe Darby and film director James Whale have also been highlighted as part of a new town trail.

More than 30 plaques are being dotted around the Market Place and Castle Street leading to Coronation Gardens.

Each 24-inch square plaque has been cast in bronze and features the date with the text, pictorial borders

MEMORY LANE

By Heather Large

and a symbol of a Trilobite, the prehistoric fossil known as the Dudley Bug discovered at Wren's Nest Nature Reserve.

The collection of 33 stones have been designed by borough artist Steve Field and some also feature QR codes engraved into the bronze - which will allow instant download information in the future from mobile phone apps.

The Time Trail plaques have been installed as part of the £6.7 million revamp of Dudley Market.

A collection of ornate bronze plaques, highlighting the borough's important events, buildings and people, is currently being installed in Market Place and Castle Street.

This 'time trail' will also continue into Coronation Gardens as part of the £1.1 million revamp of that area.

The selection of 33 plaques have been designed by borough artist Steve Field.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "These plaques are an important part of the regeneration of Dudley and can be used by visitors to the borough to get a flavour of our heritage."

"They will also be able to be used by schools and anyone interested in finding out more about our important history."

Events dedicated to include the siege of Dudley Castle in 1646, a bomb explosion in 1940 opposite St. Thomas's Church and the Green Man pub which was reputedly haunted.

The plaque honouring footballer Edwards, one of Manchester United's so-called Busby Babes, who also played for England, has been placed behind the statue in Dudley High Street, installed in 1999. Work to install the rest of the plaques will take place in the coming weeks.



Teddy Gray's shop in Wolverhampton Street in the 30s

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Second chamber creaking at seams

DANIEL WAINWRIGHT
Political Editor

THEY called them the 'dis-solution honours'. But to me they're the 'disillusioned honours' - as that's how I'm feeling about this new crop of peers of the realm.

There are some people who have sneered at the inclusion of underwear tycoon Michelle Mone in the list of new Tory peers - but she's one of the few who can point to the merits of her business acumen, rather than her service to her party.

Certain sections of the press have labelled the Scot one of the 'brassy' - their word, not mine - women David Cameron is enthralled by.

Ms Mone, however, is a rarity in a list dominated by people whose record with their party and politics is being rewarded as much as their service to their country or community.

Forlorn

The House of Lords is past its best. Creaking at the seams it is the second largest legislative chamber in the world outside of China, a country with a population of almost 1.4 billion.

The Liberal Democrats were very keen on making it elected. But that has not stopped them adding to the red benches with 11 of their own nominees - three more than the entirety of the sad and forlorn bunch of MPs they were left with after May.



Lorely Burt Lib Dem Baroness

For while the Liberal Democrats were very keen indeed on serving the will of the electorate, the electorate was not all that keen on them after five years of coalition.

David Cameron, meanwhile, is likely to press ahead with moves to cut the number of MPs, who are elected by the people, but not making much more than noises about the number of Lords, who are not.

The Prime Minister's own cynicism has dominated the debate on this over the past couple of days but my personal favourite addition to the list is from Labour.

Their modest eight peers are almost all former MPs, save for Spencer Livermore. This is the strategy and communications professional who became Labour's campaign director for the General Election.

Hmmm. Remind me how that



Soon-to-be Baroness Mone

turned out again? Still, as a new life peer Lord Livermore will have to fight for his seat, er, nevertheless, which must be rather nice.

As for the West Midlands, the only new peer from these parts is the Liberal Democrat Lorely Burt, turfed out of her Solihull seat in favour of a Conservative MP in May.

Sedgley-born Baroness Burt will, we must hope, bring a bit of Black Country common sense to a house now welcoming an intake of donors, advisers, strategists and other party political types.

Parliament will be at its best when it reflects the country it represents, not when its second chamber is used as a reward for political loyalty.

And if all the parties are not careful, respect for and trust in it will sink so low, not even one of Michelle Mone's bras could lift them.

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Reborn to boogie at the Robin 2

T Rextasy, Robin 2, Bilston WHAM glam thank you man.... Marc Bolan's spangled brand of 1970s pop was reborn to boogie in Bilston by one of the venue's favourite tribute acts on Saturday night.

T Rextasy, fronted by Bolan clone Danielz, rocked the Robin with a two-hour set that pleased both casual and die-hard fans of the corkscrew-haired glam rock star who died in a car crash 38 years ago this month.

Kicking off with Raw Ramp, the four-piece band got the crowd grooving with Metal Guru and 20th Century Boy. An acoustic set featured Cosmic Dancer (the song which opened the Billy Elliot movie), Spaceball Ricochet and Bolan's take on Stand By Me, in tribute to Ben E King.

As a treat for the dedicated fans, King of the Rumbling Spires (from when Bolan's band were still a bunch of hippies called Tyranosaurus Rex) got a rare airing, as did Dreamy Lady and Life's A Gas, the latter dedicated to Cilla Black.

After a short break, Danielz returned clad in a glittering jacket draped with a feather boa and it was boogie all the way with such favourites as Telegram Sam, Children of the Revolution, that other Billy Elliot highlight I Love To Boogie, Ride A White Swan, Solid Gold Easy Action and an epic version of Get It On.

T Rextasy will be back at the Robin on New Year's Eve to confuse Old Father Time by partying like it's still the 1970s. Long may they Truck On. **LB**



The Stereophonics are back with their ninth album and a Birmingham concert

Kelly's eye on selecting best songs for Village

MUSIC

FRESH from a headline set at the V Festival, Welsh rockers Stereophonics have announced a ten date UK arena tour including Birmingham Genting Arena on Friday, December 11.

The quartet, who sold out 16 arena shows on their Graffiti On The Train UK tour in 2013, will be releasing their eagerly anticipated ninth studio album Keep The Village Alive on September 11.

The new album features the singles C'est La Vie and I Wanna Get Lost With You. The latter has a promotional video directed by the band's singer/songwriter Kelly Jones.

Over an 18-month period, Jones wrote 30 songs, using only 10 for Graffiti On The Train, which went on to become a platinum seller.

"We had a lot of good songs left over, so we whittled that back to five and added five new songs," said the singer/guitarist.

"Some of the songs were written for Graffiti. The first single, C'est La Vie, was ready for Graffiti, for instance, but it didn't fit, so we held that back and used it now.

"It's nice when you're in a position to look at which songs work best together.

"It's a bit like being a football manager. You have a load of good players and pick the ones you want to put on the field."

For the latest information see the www.stereophonics.com website.

Hardy conjures up her own Xanadu

CD REVIEWS

by Danny Farragher

Ange Hardy Esteese

BEFORE you start listening to this album, take the time to look at the artwork.

The sleeve which is part art deco and part Bauhaus and it tells you this is not just folk music but folk art, close to a library on disc.

There is a single strand which unites all the tracks on Ange Hardy's latest offering, Samuel Taylor Coleridge from where the title comes because, he often signed himself STC.

Hardy is a damn fine musician and knows how to combine folk culture and music in a way which makes you want to understand more of the feast she has lain before you.

The Somerset born artist opens with The Foster-Mother's Tale – the first offering from Coleridge she ever read and is very close to a shanty and features the immense talents of Steve Knightley and Lukas Drinkwater alongside Hardy's silken and emotive tones.

My Captain is the start of Hardy squeezing every ounce of understanding from The Rime of the Ancient Mariner. It's a light, almost hornpipe tune. The Curse Of A Dead Man's Eye begins with David Milton dramatically reading the beginning of The Rime.

Patsy Reid's violin playing is particularly worthy of note and Tamsin Rosewell orates Kubla Khan with the atmospheric music added by Hardy and Kate Rouse on dulcimer.

It will be a big surprise if Esteese doesn't figure in the rounds of annual folk awards purely for the amount of work, time and effort Hardy has obviously put into this project.



Ange Hardy whose new album is inspired by Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Gary O'Dea Fly

This is a pretty laid back album which has that quality of being able to enjoy the songs no matter what mood you are in, which is testament to the art of songwriting and music making Gary O'Dea possesses.

The opening track Angel sets the mood perfectly with O'Dea sounding a little like John Meloncamp but with a more chilled out acoustic sound on his guitar.

All the tracks are O'Dea's own work except Take The Money and Run where he collaborated with Gary Oliver.

O'Dea from Tipton is another talent the Midlands can be proud of, although his sound is seriously chilled out that doesn't mean it is bland or lacks any depth of emotion, nothing could be further from the truth.

There are a great many musical influences which come out and the almost under-produced sound using the skills of Eddy Morton give this album a rawness which you associate with the folk singers of the Sixties.

Megan Henwood Head Heart Head

This is a seriously cool album from a seriously cool artist. While it's not what you would call a traditional or exclusively folk album, there is enough in there to keep folkies' interest.

However, also crammed into this impressive collection of songs is country, blues, soul and anything else Megan Henwood chooses to throw into the mix, and believe it, she has shoe-horned a lot into this album.

Ma Polaine's Great Decline Got Me Out Of Hell

Do not listen to this album on your own or if you are of a nervous disposition.

However, if you like music that's decadent, indulgent, on the wrong side of the edge of darkness, a bit sinister and ever so slightly wanton then light a candle and be prepared to be drawn into the world of Ma Polaine's Great Decline.

Beth Packer has an incredibly distinctive voice. Her style means every time she opens her mouth a complete story unfolds from her lips.

Warnings over off road bikers at reserve

YOBS have been riding around a beauty spot on off-road bikes prompting police to step up patrols.

Three riders have been issued warnings by officers after being caught on Pens Pool Nature Reserve, in Pensnett, near Brierley Hill.

The nature reserve is known for its wildlife alongside willows, marshland and fragments of ancient woodland.

Residents have continued to raise concerns about the use of off-road bikes on the Pens Pools and the surrounding areas.

Sergeant Rachel Turner, from Brockmoor and Pensnett Neighbourhood police, said: "This issue of off-road bikes continues to be a focus for the team although the number of calls concerning this has fallen in recent weeks."

Dream drams on offer at major whisky festival

WHISKY lovers can taste some of the finest tipples, some from distilleries long closed down, at a festival in Stourbridge.

The Midlands Whisky Festival is the biggest event of its kind outside London and takes place on Friday Saturday, September 18 and 19 at Stourbridge Town Hall.

It provides the chance for ticket holders to taste the dream drams that money just can't buy, including malts from distilleries which are no longer in operation but whose historic stock has been acquired by other distilleries and collectors.

There will be masterclasses by experts from the likes of Laphroaig, celebrating its 200th anniversary, and Nikka, the award-winning Japanese distiller, teaching visitors all they need to know about the spirit.

Independent

There will be around 40 exhibitors including artisan chocolatier Matthieu De Gottal, whose speciality is whisky chocolates, and a chance to take a break from whisky-tasting with food provided on site by local bistro, French Connection.

The Midlands Whisky Festival, established in 2011 is the brainchild of Nickolls and Perks, an independent wine and spirits merchants in Stourbridge which dates back to the 18th century. Since 1797, it has occupied the same timber-framed corner building on Lower High Street.



The Gardener family David, Jerome, Rhiannon, Will and Callum

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The Midlands Whisky Festival is held twice a year to showcase new spring and autumn releases.

Tickets for the festival, priced £30 to £150, can be bought in advance at www.whiskyfest.co.uk

Tim Robbins, marketing and events manager at Nickolls and Perks said: "We've seen a marked increase in interest in specialist and premium whiskies and spirits. This has led to the Midlands Whisky Festival growing from one day per year to two days

twice yearly, making it the largest event of its type in England outside London.

The festival offers a great opportunity to everyone to explore the diversity of whiskies and spirits on taste from Ireland, the US, Japan, India as well as, of course, Scotland.

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Dumped rubbish bagged in tidy-up



The clean-up team ready to get to work on removing the mess left behind by fly-tippers

TYRES, mattresses, sofas, fridges – the shocking mountain of rubbish dumped in a Black Country street by thoughtless fly-tippers.

A community group filled six truck-loads of trash in just two hours when they tackled the rubbish mound off Jackson Street, Lye.

Some 15 members of Tidy Stourbridge worked with the council to clear three sofas, more than 20 tyres, roofing materials, stacks of wood, plastic tubs and general waste. There was even a drinks vending machine left at the site between High Street and the Lye by-pass.

Roger Kendrick, of Tidy Stourbridge, said the smell from the rubbish was 'shocking' and described it as one of the worst examples of fly-tipping he had ever seen.

He added that Jackson Street had become a hotspot for fly-tippers.

"If people are inclined to fly-tip this is probably the best spot in the whole borough," he said.

"We all said that we'd not seen anything as bad as this load of rubbish before and most of it must have been fly-tipping."

"We picked up about 80 bags of rubbish as the team from Tidy Stourbridge. That is without including what was collected by the council's staff."

Problems at the site were first spotted by Tidy Stourbridge members around three months ago but since then more rubbish had been left.

The clean-up was carried out as a joint operation between the community group and Dudley Council's Street Cleaning Department.

Deputy Mayor Councillor Mohammed Hanif, Councillor Christine Perks and the council's chief executive, Sarah Norman, helped clear the area.

Mr Kendrick, added: "This was a really good exercise. When we first got there the rubbish was a real mountain."

"Dave Wesson from the council and Sarah Norman both said they had never seen anything like it."



The mountain of dumped rubbish

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Criticism over care as children neglected

SOCIAL workers at Dudley Council have been criticised after three children were 'chronically neglected' while under their care.

The children, who were dirty, suffered bruises and burns and had head lice and cold sores, were known to the council after their mother was cautioned for neglect.

But, two years on, concerned teachers reported the matter directly to police after becoming increasingly worried about the condition of the under-sevens. The problems had persisted despite teachers flagging up the issues with social workers.

After the police were called, a full investigation was launched. The mother, who lives in Willenhall, was given a three-year community order with supervision by the probation service at Wolverhampton Crown Court. She had admitted three cases of child cruelty by way of neglect during September and October last year. She had been cautioned in October 2012.

Mr Paul Spratt, prosecuting, said: "This was chronic neglect. The woman was incapable of dealing with them in a proper manner when it came to bathing, clothing and caring for them."

The children are now in foster care. Their mother, who cannot be named, is allowed supervised contact. Their father played no part in their upbringing.

Judge Martin Walsh said: "What is troubling is that the continued neglect occurred at a time when the children were in the care of the local authority. The offences arose when the local authority were responsible."

Miss Nicole Steers, defending, said: "This is not a case of intentional harm or neglect but of incompetence and ignorance."

Anthea Jones, for Dudley Council, said: "The children concerned were placed under a Care at Home order by the courts in August 2012. They were returned to their mother in October 2012 and the local authority continued to support the family under the Care at Home order until October 2014 when concerns were raised and we acted to remove the children."

Tough trek aids hospital



Simon Kinge, Legal & General, Lee Judson, The Tipton, Katie West, children's hospital, Matt Taylor and Julie Belcher, The Tipton

BUILDING Society staff had a mountain to climb to raise funds for Birmingham Children's Hospital.

The team from the Tipton & Cosely Building Society, trekked up Mount Snowdon and collected more than £2,300, surpassing their target of £500.

Lee Judson, general manager sales and marketing at the Tipton, along with society colleagues Sally Coombes, Julie Belcher, Matthew Taylor and Simon Kinge, financial consultancy manager from Legal & General, braved heavy rain to complete The Tipton Snowdon Chal-

lenge in three hours. Katie West, regional fundraiser at Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity, said: "We want to say a huge thank you to the team at The Tipton for taking on Mount Snowdon for our hospital."

"Their hard work allowed them to finish in record time and their fantastic fundraising effort has raised a significant amount of money that will go a long way to helping our children and families."

Lee added: "It was really tough, but made that little bit easier knowing that we were raising cash for such a worthy cause."

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Dancing Courses

Latin American Dance - Mixed Abilities

5 wks Mon 7 - 9pm Price £35.00

Tap Dancing - Mixed Abilities

5 wks Wed 7 - 8 pm Price £20.00

Bollywood Dance - Beginners

5 wks Tues 7 - 9pm Price £35.00

Dance Fitness, Belly dance & Rock & Roll

5 wks Wed 7.30 - 9pm Price £27.50

Computer Courses

Computers for Absolute Beginners

5 wks Mon 7 - 9pm Price £35.00

Gadget Know How - Get the most out of your Mobile Phone, Tablet, I Pad, Laptop etc

5 wks Mon 6 - 7.30pm Price £27.50

Gadget Know How - Get the most out of your Mobile Phone, Tablet, I Pad, Laptop etc

4 wks Mon 1 - 3 pm Price £29.00

Gadget Know How - Get the most out of your Mobile Phone, Tablet, I Pad, Laptop etc

4 wks Thurs 1 - 3 pm Price £29.00

Digital Photography - Beginners/Intermediate

5 wks Mon at 7.30 - 9pm Price £27.50

Back to Work Courses

Introduction to Excel

(Produce professional document for home & work)

5 wks Tues 7 - 9pm Price £35.00

Intro to Basic Book Keeping

(Basic knowledge of Excel required)

8 wks Wed 7 - 9pm Price £53.00

Start Your Own Business

5 wks Tue 7 - 9pm Price £35.00

Interview Techniques and Confidence Building

5 wks Thurs 7 - 9pm Price £35.00

Recreational Courses

Discover your True Potential -

Learn How to be happier and more fulfilled

5 wks Tue 7 - 9pm Price £35.00

Spiritual Awareness - Beginners

8 wks Tues 6 - 7.30pm Price £41.00

Spiritual Awareness - Intermediates, Advanced

8 wks Tues 7 - 9pm Price £53.00

Intro to Beauty & Nail Techniques (Ideal for Beginners)

8 wks Thurs 7 - 9 pm Price £53.00

Music Courses

Keyboards - All Abilities welcome

8 wks Wed 8 - 9.15pm Price £35.00

Singing for Fun - All Abilities welcome

8 wks Wed 6.45 - 8pm Price £35.00

Guitars for Total Beginners

8 wks Wed 6.30 - 7.30pm Price £29.00

Guitars for Improvers

10 wks Wed 7.30 - 9pm Price £50.00

Language Courses

Holiday French - Beginners

8 wks Weds 7 - 9 pm Price £53.00

Holiday Italian - Beginners

8 wks Wed 7.45 - 9.15 pm Price £41.00

Holiday Italian - Improvers conversation

8 wks Wed 6.15 - 7.45pm Price £41.00

Holiday Spanish - Beginners

8 wks Tues 6 - 7.30 pm Price £41.00

Holiday Spanish - Beginners

8 wks Thurs 6 - 7.30pm Price £41.00

Holiday Spanish - Beginners

8 wks Thurs 7.30 - 9 pm Price £41.00

Holiday Spanish - Improvers

8 wks Tues 7.30 - 9pm Price £41.00

Holiday Spanish - Improvers

8 wks Thurs 7.30 - 9 pm Price £41.00

Conversation Spanish - Advanced

ASSESSMENT BY TUTOR

8 wks Thurs 7.30 - 9pm Price £41.00

Taster Session Week

WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2015

Latin American Dance Mixed Abilities

1 wk Mon 7 - 8.30pm Price £3

Gadget Know How - Get the most out of your

Intro to Basic Book Keeping

(Basic knowledge of Excel required)

1 wk Wed 7 - 8.30pm Price £3

Mobile Phone, Tablet, I Pad, Laptop etc

1 wk Mon 6 - 7.30pm Price £3

Bollywood Dance for Beginners

1 wk Tues 7 - 8.30pm Price £3

Start Your Own Business

1 wk Tue 7 - 8.30pm Price £3

Spiritual Awareness - Beginners

1 wk Tues 6 - 7.30pm Price £3

Tap Dancing for Beginners

1 wk Wed 7 - 8.30pm Price £3

Dance Fitness, Belly Dance & Rock & Roll

1 wk Wed 7.30 - 9pm Price £3

Singing for Fun - All abilities welcome

1 wk Wed 6 - 7.30pm Price £3

Guitars for Total Beginners

1 wk Wed 6.30 - 7.30pm Price £3

Creative Crafts/Art

▲ Flower Arranging for all occasions - Mixed Ability

8 wks Mon 7 - 9pm Price £58.00

▲ Floristry including Weddings Flowers and Bouquets (Mixed Ability)

8 wks Thurs 7 - 9pm Price £58.00

Learn How to Use a Sewing Machine

8 wks Mon 7 - 9pm Price £53.00

Sewing for Improvers - including Alterations and Recycling Textiles

8 wks Tues 7 - 9pm Price £53.00

Learn to Face Paint (Ideal for Fetes and Parties)

5 wks Thurs 7 - 9pm Price £35.00

Woodwork - for Total Beginners (Introduction into Woodworking skills)

8 wks Mon 7 - 9pm Price £53.00

Woodwork - Improvers

8 wks Mon 7 - 9pm Price £53.00

▲ Cooking for Fellas - All Levels

8 wks Tues 6.30 - 9pm Price £75.00

Art - Paint in Pastels - All Levels

8 wks Wed 7 - 9pm Price £53.00

Art - Paint in Pastels - All Levels

8 wks Tue 10am - 12pm Price £53.00

Career Qualification Courses

▲ Level 2 Emergency First Aid at Work RING FOR DETAILS ***

TBA 6 - 9.30pm Price £48.00

▲ Paediatric First Aid (12 hours OFSTED Requirement) ***

TBA 6 - 9 pm Price £60.00

▲ Basic Food Hygiene Certificate

(A must if working with food) Mon, Tue or Thurs

2 wks 6 - 9.30pm Price £48.00

British Sign Language (BSL) Level 1 - Unit 101

10 wks Wed 7 - 9pm Price £65.00

(excludes exam fee)

Club Courses

START WEEK COMMENCING

MONDAY 21st SEPTEMBER 2015

▲ Cake Decorating Wired Sugar Flowers, △ Roses, Carnation**

8 wks Mon 7 - 9pm Price £55.00

▲ Decorating Beginners Royal Icing, △ Marzipan, Sugar Paste **

8 wks Wed 7 - 9pm Price £55.00

▲ Cake Decorating and Flower Making Club (Int)** △

8 wks Thurs 7 - 9pm Price £55.00

COURSES START WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 14/09/15

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▲ Demonstration Fee applicable

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Malcolm Price, of Kinver, a former instructor, with his collection of light meters



Ernest Brooks during WWI pictured with a camera



Going back in time – Jeff Ball and Gary Hughes, with old-style cameras



A Bolex EBM Cine Camera used by military camera teams



This camera is reputed to have helped forge passes for POWs

Focusing on camera's frontline role to record warzone exploits

RAF Cosford put on a treat for veterans who were armed with a very different weapon of war – the camera.

Photography has changed hugely since the negative development process was invented in 1835 by William Fox Talbot.

And as photography has developed, its use by Britain's Armed Forces has also changed.

Ernest Brooks pioneered the use of photography as a tool in the First World War. He was the first official photographer to be appointed by the British military, and produced several thousand images between 1915 and 1918, more than a tenth of all British official photographs taken during the war.

In 1915 the first military photography school was opened, when The Royal Flying Corps School of Photography was established at South Farnborough.

And 100 years later the work continues at

MEMORY LANE

Report by Karl Aston

the Defence School of Photography (DSOP), based at RAF Cosford, which put on a display to celebrate the centenary of that first photography school.

The Cosford exhibition wasn't open to the public, being put on solely for the benefit of ex-service personnel who had worked as photographers in the Army, Navy or RAF.

Visitors

It was also a chance for current trainees to learn about the history of military photography.

The exhibition included a recreation of an Army photographic unit from 1942, complete with two men dressed in period uniforms and a Willys Jeep.

Visitors were also able to tour the training facility and see all the rooms where the trainees are instructed, including a room

set-up like a police crime scene. Military photographers are often called to lend their specialist photographic knowledge to help the police.

A 'Centenary Room' had a timeline showing significant historical events in both civilian and military photography. That room also housed historical items, including the camera used by prisoners involved in the mass escape from Stalag Luft III in March 1943 – as dramatised in the film *The Great Escape*.

Another display case held a collection of Weston exposure meters, an essential for any photographer in the days before cameras became adept at measuring light.

The company was founded by Edward Weston, born in Oswestry in 1850 and the collection belongs to Malcolm Price, from Kinver. Malcolm, 70, said: "It wasn't until I researched the history that I realised he was a local man."

He said: "I started my collection of for two reasons, firstly because I still use the meters and secondly, I wanted to show the

link between Weston meters and the local area."

Stacey Mellor, the visits and engagement officer for RAF Cosford, said: "As well as celebrating the unit's centenary, we are also celebrating 50 years of the DSOP being here at Cosford."

About 400 ex-servicemen attended the event over two days, concluding with a gala dinner on the Saturday. Since its inception a year after the start of World War One, the Armed Forces photographic unit has trained about 51,000 photographers.

The DSOP in Cosford instructs members of all three forces, trains 700 each year and divides its training into two streams. The first stream is for those seeking to be dedicated photographers in the armed forces and they are trained on a professional-level 28 week course.

The other stream is for those soldiers, sailors and airmen who need to use photography in addition to performing their regular military role – and those courses last from four days to three weeks.

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Costumes of the Stars Dressed by Angels

Two days departing November 21

**Pick
of the
week**



PRICE FROM £119

Discover the fascinating story behind the world's greatest costume house in this never-seen-before exhibition.

From Lawrence of Arabia to Titanic, Dickens to Lillie Langtry and military to royalty; Angels has been dressing the world for over 175 years and is a production powerhouse supplying costumes for film, television and theatre.

See over 100 costumes made for the likes of Fred Astaire, Laurence Olivier, Tom Baker, Judi Dench, Cate Blanchett and Meryl Streep to name just a few.

Also on display are costumes from stage and screen including Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and Star Wars; TV shows including Downton Abbey and the 2015 series of Poldark, plus the West End blockbuster musical Wicked.

Following the exhibition there is time to explore Brick Lane Market, which is packed with stalls selling all manner of weird and wonderful objects. There's also the nearby Old Spitalfields Market with over 100 independent stalls in a Victorian market hall.

A visit is also made to Covent Garden, known for its shopping and entertainment and, in the run up to Christmas, its magical festive atmosphere.

INFO

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Entrance to the Dressed by Angels exhibition
- Visit to Covent Garden
- Free time to visit Brick Lane Market and Spitalfields Market
- Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

CORONATION STREET TOUR — DAY TRIP

Departs Sunday, September 13



PRICE FROM £45

Coronation Street The Tour is a unique opportunity to walk down the famous cobbles, step inside the Rovers Return and take a tour behind the scenes of the former Manchester sets.

Studio guides will share fascinating facts and stories from over 50 years of filming at the site before it moved to MediaCityUK.

Reminisce with family and friends, see footage of memorable scenes and iconic props as well as visiting actual room sets opened to the public for the first time.

PRICE INCLUDES

- Return coach travel
- 90-minute tour of the Coronation Street set at Granada Studios
- Free time in Manchester

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

To book this day trip call Omega Holidays direct on 01524 37500 or go to www.omega-holidays.com/PCJ920

New Year in Chester

Three days departing December 30



PRICE FROM £179

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- New Year's Eve party
- Full day in Chester
- Visit to Liverpool
- Optional Chester Zoo excursion offered
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

The Nutcracker on Ice at the Royal Albert Hall

Two days departing December 28



PRICE FROM £119

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Ticket to The Nutcracker on Ice at the Royal Albert Hall (upgrades offered)
- Visit to Hyde Park Winter Wonderland
- Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Hyde Park Winter Wonderland

Two days departing November 28



PRICE FROM £89

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to Hyde Park Winter Wonderland
- Free time in London
- Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Christmas at Chatsworth

Two days departing November 14



PRICE FROM £119

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Entrance to Chatsworth house and gardens
- Visit to Meadowhall Shopping Centre
- Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

London Weekend by rail

Two days various departure dates



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London Theatre by rail Showstopper weekend

Three days various departure dates



PRICE FROM £229.95

- Return standard class rail travel to London (upgrade offered)
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- Top price ticket for the Friday evening performance of a choice of West End shows
- Free time in London
- Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies

Please note the "from" price varies for each show
Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

Innsbruck, Salzburg and Lake Garda

Eight days various departure dates 2016



PRICE FROM £699

- Return flights
- Seven nights half-board accommodation (three in Lake Garda and four in the Austrian Tyrol)
- Full-day tour of Lake Garda
- Excursion to Innsbruck
- Visit and walking tour of Salzburg
- Two optional excursions offered
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)

Rome Ancient and Baroque

Five days various departure dates 2015/16



PRICE FROM £549

- Return flights
- Four nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Guided tours of Ancient Rome and Baroque Rome
- Timed visit and entrance to the Villa Borghese
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

Barcelona and the Highlights of Catalonia

Seven days various departure dates 2016



PRICE FROM £699

- Return flights
- Six nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Three dinners
- Guided tours of Barcelona and Tarragona
- Timed and guided visit of Sagrada Família
- Guided tour of Poblet Monastery
- Visit to Girona
- Visit to Montserrat's Benedictine Monastery
- Visit to a Cava vineyard
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)



Teenager hurt in bag snatch

A TEENAGER was hurt in a knife-point robbery in Kinver. The 18-year-old from Stourbridge, was approached by a gang at around 3.25pm on August 21 in a wooded area near Marsh playing fields at Kinver Community Centre.

He was attacked after refusing to hand over his bag containing two mobile phones – a Sony Experia and an Apple iPhone. He suffered facial injuries and cuts to his neck and hand. The main suspect is described as Asian, around 17 to 18, 6ft tall and of skinny build. He had short black hair and wore a white polo T-shirt and blue jeans.

He was accompanied by approximately seven other males aged between 17 and 18. One was white with curly ginger hair and a 'chubby' build. Call DC Matt Gould of Staffordshire Police on 101.

Grounds for optimism over football pitch drainage repairs

THOUSANDS of pounds have been spent repairing drainage at a community football pitch, allowing youngsters to play there this season.

Bosses at the Baggeridge Social Welfare Centre in Gornal gratefully received turf taken from Molineux to create the under-10s pitch around 18 months ago. The facility replaced derelict tennis courts at the centre in The Straits.

But in a crushing blow to those who were playing at the pitch it quickly became waterlogged in

September last year. Club trustee, Gornal Councillor Dave Branwood, said: "The pitch was only played on a couple of times last season when we realised it was not playable."

"It was around September when one of the corners got completely waterlogged. The water was running down the slope and making it really boggy. The teams were unable to play on it for the rest of the season."

Councillor Branwood said club bosses were desperate to have the pitch in functional condition ready for the start of this season. And in order to achieve that ambition they splashed out

£7,400 to repair the damaged drainage which had caused the flooding. There had previously been some drainage in place but the Gornal councillor believes it had been cracked in the process of laying the turf taken Wolverhampton Wanderers ground.

The club has now requested £3,700 funding from Dudley Council to help pay for the costs of installing the new system.

Councillor Branwood added: "We have now also got dug-outs which have been donated from the old Wolves training ground so it is really becoming a high class facility."

Plea over jab to uni freshers

UNIVERSITY freshers are being urged to book in for a meningitis vaccine before heading off to study.

First year university students are particularly susceptible to meningococcal disease. Health bosses at Dudley Council are inviting those aged 19 to 24 and anyone born between September 1, 1996, and August 31, 1997, to book in for the jab.

Councillor Rachel Harris, for health, said: "This is an exciting time for students heading off to university, but we'd like them to make getting this vaccination part of their preparation plans."

"Even if you have recently received the Men C booster vaccine, it's still important to get this new vaccine as it protects against A, W and Y strains as well."

More fun in the great outdoors for youngsters



Rachel Cutting, Ethan Hamblett, Holly Marriott, Ria Sood and Ian Romano

PUPILS in Halesowen School are set to have even more fun at break time thanks to a bigger playground, grass football pitch and a forest area.

Olive Hill Primary, in Springfield Road, has had the new play facilities as part of a package of education and sports improvements for the school.

Head teacher Rachel Cutting said: "The children were very excited to have a larger playground last year and to see the development of the new school field and forest area this year. The work has provided the children with more space to play and learn outdoors."

Regeneration specialists St Modwen has delivered the play facilities as part of its £2 million project to create new homes and provide improved facilities in the Coombs Wood area.

Ian Romano, senior development surveyor at St Modwen, added: "We hope these outstanding facilities will improve the quality of play, teaching and learning at the school for both current and future pupils."

St Modwen has also made extensive biodiversity improvements to the Green Wedge, resulting in a total of 12 acres of land being reinstated for public access.

In 2013, it completed the construction and redevelopment of Coombs Wood Sports and Social Club, securing the future of Coombs Wood Cricket Club.

It is hoped that the schools forest area will also attract wildlife, allowing children to get involved with nature studies.

Education

Councillor Ian Cooper, cabinet member for Children's Services, added: "Learning through play is a very important part of primary education, and children especially benefit from playing outdoors in the fresh air so these new facilities are very welcome."

St Modwen operates across the full spectrum of the property industry from a network of seven regional offices, a residential business and through joint ventures with public sector and industry leading partners.

A new lease of life for derelict building

A BUILDING in Halesowen that has been derelict for years has been taken over by a community.

The site in Wall Well, near the Huntingtree pub, was used as a meeting place for war veterans in years gone by but has been vacant for around a decade.

Seeing an opportunity to create a community hub when the building was put up for sale, the Hasbury Community Committee stepped in.

The group applied to buy the building from Dudley Council under the Community Asset Transfer scheme with the deal now complete. Play groups, youth clubs and other local organisations will be invited to hire the site.

Group member Bryan Kelsey said: "It was for sale and local people didn't want it to be sold for housing or offices. The group got together and offered to buy it off the council. It's taken about three years to do it."

"It was a sons of rest where men would while away the hours, meet friends and sit and play dominoes. But it fell into disuse and was boarded up."

Mr Kelsey, of Woodcross, Wolverhampton, used to run a youth club in Halesowen and said the group was hoping to raise enough funds to revamp the building. The group has launched a summer scheme from the site, where free trips will be offered to the likes of Dudley Zoo and the Black Country Museum.

Launch of walk route

A NEW circular walking route has been launched at a beauty spot near Halesowen.

The 2.25 mile path in Romsley can be followed as part of the Walk Worcestershire series of short, easy to follow waymarked routes. They encourage local people to use their network of public rights of way.

The Romsley Penny Field walk starts at the Swallows Nest pub in Romsley village.

The parish council launched the walk with tea and cakes in the church hall. Amanda Hill, countryside access volunteers officer, said: "The 2.25 mile circular was enjoyed by the 65 participants on the walk launch."

Visit www.worcestershire.gov.uk/countryside for details.

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Mystery Guest to kick off Rep season



Mystery – Phil Astle as Inspector Thomas, Samantha Gessey as Laura Warwick and Mark Moran as Michael Stackwedder

A CLASSIC whodunnit will be kicking off the 77th season of the Black Country's foremost community theatres.

Oldbury Rep is staging thriller The Unexpected Guest, with performances taking place from September 12 to 19.

Set in a foggy country estate in Wales, the mystery begins when a stranger, lost in the fog, walks into the study of Richard and Laura Warwick to find a man dead.

He comes across the dead man's wife, who has a revolver in her hand. It appears to be an open and shut case. But the woman is dazed and confused and her confession is unconvincing.

The Agatha Christie classic includes a houseful of suspects who have both the motive and opportunity to have carried out the crime.

Performances start at 7.30pm and tickets can be obtained by phone or in person from the box office on Monday and Tuesday evenings of £8 (no concessions) – box office is 0121 552 2761. And there are online book-

ings available at www.oldburyrep.org

Meanwhile, the theatre's special film screenings continue on September 25 with the feel-good comedy The Second Best Marigold Hotel and on October 9 the new version of the Thomas Hardy classic, Far from the Madding Crowd will be shown. The film for October 23 is to be confirmed and on November 20 the Rep presents Sir Ian McKellan in Mr Holmes.

All films are shown on the Rep's 16ft screen with high quality digital projection in the 170-seat auditorium. Tickets are still just £3.50 and the performance starts at 7.30pm.

Bake Off duo will sign books at food festival

TWO stars from The Great British Bake Off will appear at Ludlow Food Festival next weekend.

Luis Troyano, who appeared on the BBC show last year, and Howard Middleton from the fourth series, are part of the line-up at the Shropshire festival, which will be held in the grounds of Ludlow Castle from Friday to Sunday, September 11 to 13.

Both will give demonstrations on the festival's cooking stage before signing copies of their books.

Howard Middleton, who will be talking about his new book Gluten Free Baking, will appear on the Friday afternoon of the festival, while Luis Troyano will give a demonstration on the Saturday morning.

Organisers have also revealed that Shaun Hill, who ran the Michelin starred Merchant House in Ludlow until 2005, will return to the town he helped put on the culinary map a decade ago.

Mr Hill, who now runs the Walnut Tree restaurant near Abergavenny, has been named as an inspiration by top chefs.



Howard Middleton is gluten free baking



Luis Troyano appearing on the Saturday

Pudding

In total there will be 33 talks and cookery demonstrations over the course of the festival, while more than 180 producers will show off their wares.

There will also be the annual locally-made sausage, ale and bread trails taking place around Ludlow, along with pudding tasting and a Sunday produce market.

For children there will be Kidz-Kitchen cookery classes sponsored by Lanyon Bowdler, and interactive Grow Cook Learn workshops.

Marcus Bean's Brompton Cookery

School will again be running pop-up

cookery classes, and "taste workshops" will be run by Slow Food Ludlow Marches, along with other cookery masterclasses.

The festival will kick off with Parkinsons' UK Secret Supper on the evening of September 10, which will be a charity night sampling three restaurants in one evening around the town.

Ludlow Food Festival dates back to 1995. That's when a number of Ludlow Chamber of Trade and Commerce members came up with a number of ideas to help boost the business image

of Ludlow and the surrounding area. The idea was to create a festival which would both promote the area's small food and drink producers and encourage visitors to explore historic Ludlow's shops, restaurants and pubs.

The historic setting was combined with events like the trails which were designed to encourage visitors to explore Ludlow and its specialist shops, restaurants, cafes and pubs. The rest, as they say, is history.

For more information visit the website, www.foodfestival.co.uk or telephone (01584) 873957.



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THE LAST DANCE

French star Sylvie's
farewell performance
Page 23



**Into the Sunset
– Page 23**



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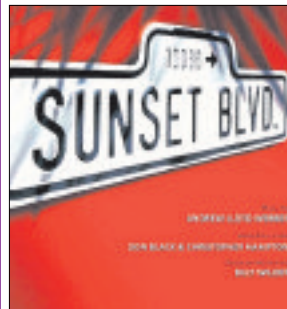
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Monday, 8pm
Stafford Gatehouse

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staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk

Sunset Boulevard



Tues - September 12
The Grand, W'ton

Sunset Boulevard makes a long-awaited return to the stage this Autumn, a first for the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre. The show weaves a magnificent tale.
 Visit www.grandtheatre.co.uk

Philip Solomon



Tuesday, 7pm
Robin 2, Bilston

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 Call 0870 320 7000

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The Sex Pissed Dolls
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Rock of Ages Experiences
 Sun at 7.30pm
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The Music of John Martyn
 Wed at 7pm
 £12.50/£14
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Duran Duran Tribute + Spandau Ballet Tribute
 Thur at 7pm
 £8/£10
 Robin 2, Bilston,
 WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

Antarctic Monkeys: Arctic Monkeys Tribute
 Fri at 12am, £7 - £11
 The RoadHouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B30 3DZ.
 Call 0121 246 2273

Waster
 Wed at 7pm - 11pm, £6
 The Rainbow, Digbeth, Birmingham, B12 0LD.
 Call 0121 753 1818

The Catapult Club
 Fri at 6pm - 10pm,
 O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.
 Call 0121 622 8250

Paul Smith & The Intimations
 Mon at 7pm, £12
 The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
 Call 0121 643 0428

John Rossall & Harvey Ellison
 Sat at 7pm, £8
 The RoadHouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B30 3DZ.
 Call 0121 246 2273

Abba Reunion: Abba Tribute
 Sat at 7.30pm, £20.50
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
 Call 01543 412121

Jurassic 5
 Tue at 7pm, £25
 The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
 Call 0121 643 0428

Mac DeMarco
 Thu at 7pm - 11pm, £15
 The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
 Call 0121 643 0428

The Official Receivers
 Sat at 8pm, £12
 Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.
 Call 01527 577330

The Mersey Beatles: The Beatles Tribute
 Sat at 7.30pm, £16.50
 Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE.
 Call 01527 65203

Autobahn
 Sat at 7.30pm, £6
 The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham, B5 4EG.
 Call 0121 632 6756

Outfit
 Thu at 8pm, £8
 Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
 Call 0844 870 0000

Only Shadows
 Sat at 7pm, £6
 The Rainbow, Digbeth, Birmingham, B12 0LD.
 Call 0121 753 1818

Life In Film
 Wed at 7pm, £8
 Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
 Call 0844 870 0000

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

Sir Simon Rattle Conducts The Dream Of Gerontius
 Tue at 7.30pm - 10pm, £9.50 - £90
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
 Call 0121 780 3333

The Burley-Modern Duo - Classical Guitar
 Sun at 7.30pm - 10.30pm, £5
 Kitchen Garden Cafe, King's Heath, Birmingham, B14 7SA.
 Call 0121 443 4725

Oh, What A Night
 Fri at 7.30pm, £15.50
 Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE.
 Call 01527 65203

The Barron Knights
 Wed at 7.30pm, £18.50
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
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JAZZ & SOUL

Jazz In The Courtyard
 Sun at 4.30pm, Free
 Light House, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT.
 Call 01902 716055

Lee Fields & The Expressions
 Tue at 7pm, £15
 The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
 Call 0121 643 0428

The Jive Aces
 Fri at 8pm, £15
 Artrix, Slideslow Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.
 Call 01527 577330

FOLK & ACOUSTIC

Moseley Folk Festival
 Fri at 1pm - 10.30pm, Sat at 11am - 10.30pm, Sun at 11am - 10.30pm, £39 - £89
 Moseley Park and Pool, Birmingham, B13 8DD.
 Call 0121 442 4499

Irish Music Session
 Wed at 8pm,
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
 Call 01384 374410

Open Mic Night
 Mon at 8.30pm, Free
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
 Call 01384 374410

Greg Russell and Ciaran Algar
 Mon at 8pm, £10
 Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT.
 Call 01785 254653

Hayes Carll
 Sat at 8pm - 11pm, £15
 The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.
 Call 0871 472 0400

Oh Susanna
 Wed at 7.30pm - 11pm, £13
 Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, B14 7JZ.
 Call 0844 870 0000

Sandpiper Folk Club Night
 Wed at 7.45pm,
 Pigot Arms, 11 High Street, Pittingham, Wolverhampton, WV6 7BQ.
 Call 01902 700207

Common Folk: Singers' Night
 Thu at 8.30pm,
 Pelsall Cricket & Sports Club, Walsall Road, Walsall, WS3 4BP.
 Call 01922 682018

Brewood Acoustic Club
 Thu at 8pm,
 Brewood Cricket Club, Four Ashes Road, Brewood, ST19 9HX.
 Call 01902 850422

Country Music Nights
 Sun at 8.15pm, £2
 Swan With Two Necks, Longdon, WS15 4PN.
 Call 01543 491570

THEATRE

Sunset Boulevard
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 Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton
 WV1 1DE.
 Call 01902 429 212

Open Door
 Mon at 8pm - 9.30pm, Free
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
 Call 0121 236 4455

The Return Of Neverland
 Thu at 7.30pm, £10 - £15
 Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE.
 Call 01543 578762

Dr Seuss's The Cat In The Hat (Over 3s)
 Fri at 4.30pm, Sat at 1pm, 3.30pm, £8 - £12.50
 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
 Call 01902 573320

Common Wealth - No Guts, No Heart, No Glory
 Tue at 7pm, Wed at 1.30pm, Thu at 1.30pm, £12 - £17
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
 Call 0121 236 4455

Pardon Me, Prime Minister
 Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
 The Rose Theatre, Broadwaters, Kidderminster, DY10 2RX.
 Call 01562 743745

Sylvie Guillem - Life In Progress
 Tue at 7.30pm - 10pm, Wed at 7.30pm - 10pm, £15 - £75
 Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.
 Call 0844 338 5000

Mrs Robinson I Presume + The Graduate
 Sat at 7.30pm, Sun at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm, £14 - £15
 The Crescent Theatre, Sheepcote Street, Birmingham, B16 8AE.
 Call 0121 643 5858

King Charles III
 Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 7.30pm, Sun at 7.30pm, Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7pm, Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm, 7.30pm, 7.30pm, £8.50 - £30
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
 Call 0121 236 4455

Simon Smith Cookery Demonstrations
 Thu at 7.30pm, £12
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
 Call 01543 412121

COMEDY

Alan Carr
 Thurs at 8pm
 £30
 Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.
 Call 0844 338 5000

Dick V Dom
 Sun at 11am. 1.30pm
 £16
 Town Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
 Call 0121 780 3333

Comedy Rough Works: New Material Night
 Sun at 6.45pm, £4
 The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.
 Call 0871 472 0400

The Best In Live Stand-Up Comedy
 Fri at 7pm, Sat at 7pm, £5 - £18.25
 The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.
 Call 0871 472 0400

The Comedy Club Wolverhampton
 Fri at 8.30pm - 10.30pm, £10
 Molineux Stadium, Wolverhampton, WV1 4QR.
 Call 0871 222 2220

My Comedy
 Wed at 7pm - 10.30pm, £10
 Kitchen Garden Cafe, King's Heath, Birmingham, B14 7SA.
 Call 0121 443 4725

Paul Chowdhry: PC's World
 Mon at 6.45pm - 11pm, Tue at 6.45pm - 11pm, £15
 The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.
 Call 0871 472 0400

OTHER EVENTS

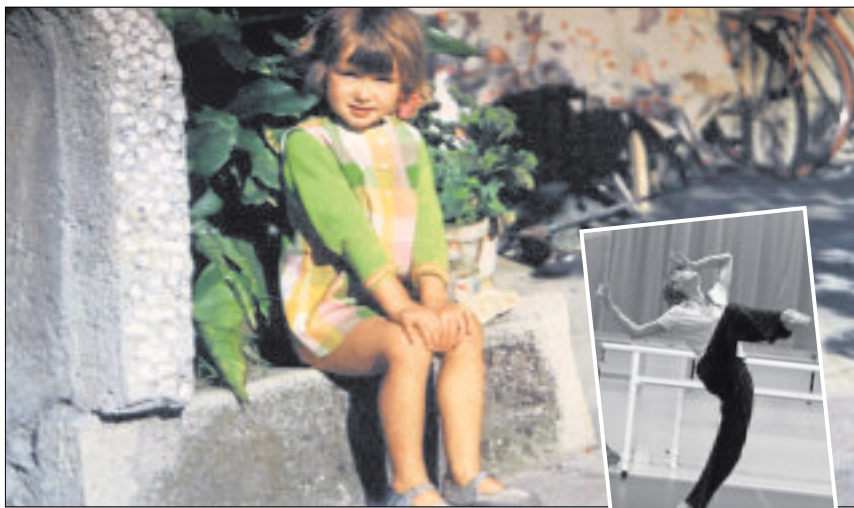
AutumnFair
 Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Free
 The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT.
 Call 0121 780 4141

Bilston Toy and Collectors Fair
 Sun at 11am, £1
 Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

Medium Philip Solomon
 Tues at 7pm, £9/£10
 Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Sylvie lining up for one last dance



Sylvie Guillem as a young girl, and, inset, showing off her ballet dancing prowess

HAILED as one of the greatest dancers of her generation, Sylvie Guillem embarks on her final world tour – giving fans in the West Midlands the chance to say goodbye.

This farewell tour, called Life in Progress, takes in Birmingham Hippodrome on September 8 and 9, from 7.30pm each night. It marks the end of an unparalleled career spanning well over 30 years.

Now aged 50, Guillem began train-

ing at the Paris Opera Ballet School in 1977. She has performed all the leading roles of the classical repertoire and was principal guest artist with The Royal Ballet for more than a decade.

Since 2004 she has been an Associate Artist at Sadler's Wells, and has forged a second, hugely successful career as a dancer in new and contemporary works. Ahead of the second Hippodrome performance, a special

fundraising reception includes a talk from dance critic Sarah Crompton about Sylvie's prolific career.

Sylvie previously amazed Hippodrome audiences as part of its award-winning International Dance Festival Birmingham (IDFB) and funds raised from the reception will go towards commissions and projects planned for IDFB 2016. It starts at 6.15pm and tickets are £30. Book online or call 0844 338 5000.



"There's never a dull moment with Norma."

Musical first for the Grand

ANDREW Lloyd Webber's blockbuster musical Sunset Boulevard makes a long-awaited return to the stage this autumn, performed by West Bromwich Operatic Society in a first for Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.

Based on the Billy Wilder film, the musical version includes music by Lloyd Webber and lyrics by Christopher Hampton and Don Black. It takes place from September 8 to 12 at 7.30pm each night, with a Wednesday matinee (September 9) at 2.30pm.

Silent movie star Norma Desmond is longing for a return to the big screen having been discarded with the advent of talkies. When she meets struggling Hollywood screen-writer Joe Gillis, their subsequent passionate and volatile relationship leads to an unforeseen and tragic conclusion.

Because of the demands of the role, director Jason Capewell has cast two leading ladies to play Norma, Sarah Moors and Colette Forsyth. WBOS chairman Vivien Davis said: "This has been an interesting experience for us all. Scenes and musical numbers have to be separately rehearsed with each Norma, and we have watched different interpretations and reactions. It has certainly kept the company on their toes."

Sarah Moors said: "I'm thrilled to get the opportunity to play Norma Desmond. It's a part that has become iconic in musical theatre."

"This is the first time Sunset Boulevard has been released to amateurs and we are very lucky to be putting it on. Rehearsals have been demanding but it's been great to get stuck into such a strong acting role. There's never a dull moment with Norma."

For tickets call 01902 42 92 12, or visit www.grandtheatre.co.uk

Chas & Dave join Rockmas festivities

TICKETS are on now on sale for Rockmas 2015 at the Barclaycard Arena, featuring Roy Wood and friends.

The Christmas concert will be opened by Andy Fairweather-Low and The Low Riders.

Great collaborations in the past have seen Rick Wakeman and his son Adam join forces with an opera singer, while the Proclaimers have also supported Roy and his band on stage.

This year Rockmas welcomes Chas & Dave. There will also be a surprise special guest.

The spectacular takes place on December 6. Tickets are on general sale from www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 338 8000.

From cat in hat to dancing grannies

YOUNGSTERS can enjoy a stage adaptation of Dr Seuss's The Cat In The Hat this week.

This stage version, by Katie Mitchell, is being performed at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre tomorrow (Friday) from 4.30pm, followed by two shows on Saturday at 1pm and 3.30pm. Call Janine Graeme on 01902 573311 or email janine@grandtheatre.co.uk for ticket details.

Expect hilarious routines from naughty schoolchildren to dancing grannies as the Fizzogs perform at the theatre tonight (Thursday). Phoenix Nights star Barbara Nice (aka Janice Connolly) guests in Fifty Shades of Fizzog from 7.30pm.

Imelda singles out city for show

IRISH singer Imelda May will perform her only UK headline show of the year in Wolverhampton.

The singer, who released debut album Mayhem earlier this year, will perform at the Wulfrun Hall on September 24.

The Dublin singer will come to the city hot on the heels of a successful performance at this year's V Festival, where she drew an impressive crowd to the main stage before duetting with Sir Tom Jones.

She has also collaborated with some of the biggest artists in the industry. Tickets are £27.50 and available on 0870 320 7000 or online at www.wolvescivic.co.uk

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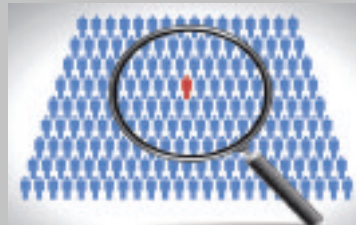
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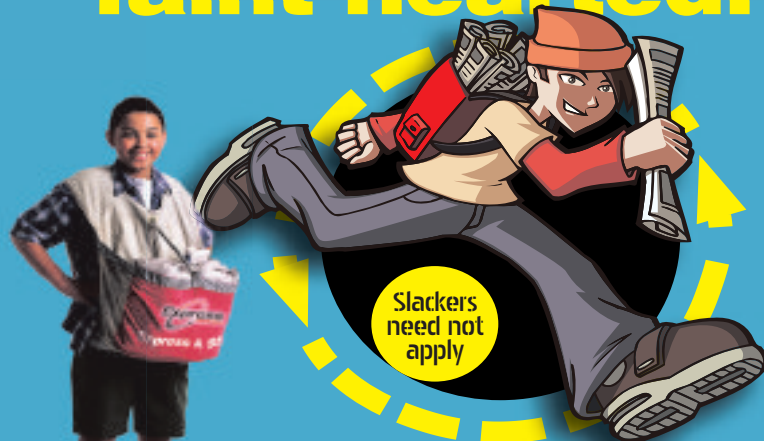
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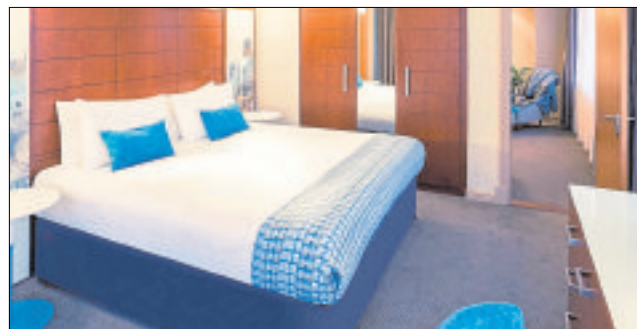
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Exterior shot of the Mercure Holland House hotel in the heart of the city



SS Brunel, a museum ship harboured in Bristol



One of the refurbished bedrooms at Bristol Holland House



Landogier Trow, one of the city's hidden treasures

A tale of two cities loaded with poetry, prose and the Plimsoll Line

THERE are no Hard Times in this tale of two cities. But what a Dickens of a history lesson we had.

Bristol and Bath are just 12 miles apart and both are steeped in heritage – and fascinating literary connections. The former can lay claim to Robert Southey, a close friend of Wordsworth and Coleridge and who later become Poet Laureate. Coleridge himself launched the Watchman magazine in the city in 1795.

Child genius Thomas Chatterton, who died at the age of 17, was born in the city, which is also home to award-winning writer and poet Helen Dunmore.

More famous links are those of Robert Louis Stevenson and Daniel Defoe. Legend has it that Defoe based Robinson Crusoe on Alexander Selkirk, whom he met in the

By Mark Shipp

Llandoger Trow in King Street. The Hole in the Wall pub, in Queens Square, reputedly forms the basis of the Spyglass pub in Robinson's Treasure Island. Both feature in a list of hidden treasures, created by Mercure and Blue Badge tourism guides.

Jane Austen, a one-time resident of neighbouring Bath, spent time in Bristol and is believed to have stayed in Clifton.

But Bristol is also famed for other key maritime and engineering achievements. Italian explorer John Cabot is honoured with a statue. He settled in Bristol in 1840, and seven years later discovered Newfoundland. SS Brunel was the world's longest passenger liner from 1845-54 and is now a leading visitor attraction and museum ship. Samuel Plimsoll, inventor of the ship loading line which bears his name, is an-

other famous Bristolian. Concorde, the motorbike and sidecar – and even lead shot, originated in Bristol, as did Schweppes and Harvey's Bristol Cream. Chocolatier Joseph Fry opened his first shop in the city in 1756.

Wallace & Gromit maybe famous Bristol creations, but did you know that Deal or No Deal, Casualty and Shoestring – even Only Fools and Horses were all filmed there.

All this and more my partner and I discovered when we stayed at the Mercure Bristol Holland House Hotel, welcoming accommodation in the centre of a vibrant and clean city.

A recent transformation has seen its 275 rooms and public spaces renovated, all giving a nod to the city's industrial and sea-faring heritage. It also boasts 12 conference rooms, a spa and 14 treatment rooms. We were also treated to Flavours From the Cellar, a wine concept launched by

Saturday Kitchen's Susie Barry and Peter Richards. Their offerings feature across 72 of the chain's hotels alongside other locally selected wines.

The city offers so much to do, from the oldest established market, St Nicholas, which dates to 1873, the mall at Cribbs Causeway, housing 135 top stores, and the Avon Valley Railway nostalgia steam train.

The next day, we headed to Bath, where its own literary connections should not be underestimated. Austen aside, Frankenstein author Mary Shelley and her husband Percy Bysshe Shelley lodged there, Tobias Smollett penned part of his Expedition of Humphrey Clinker in the city and Dickens set part of Pickwick Papers there. Author Jacqueline Wilson was also born in Bath.

We finished the weekend at Bath races where, a jockey named Hardy – Cam Hardie – to be precise, scored a double.



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Entertainment unleashed

CHOICE



Strictly Come Dancing – The Launch Show (BBC1, 7.15pm)
Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman host the launch event, featuring performances by singers Jess Glynne and Gregory Porter, in which this year's celebrities meet their dance partners for the first time. Among the celebrities taking part are Jeremy Vine, Ainsley Harriott, Kellie Bright, Georgia May Foote, Katie Derham, Carol Kirkwood, Peter Andre, Daniel O'Donnell and Anthony Ogogo. Last year's reigning champions Caroline Flack and Pasha Kovalev return to the ballroom for one last performance.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip. **(R) 12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Live Rowing. The World Championships. **2.30** Athletics. **3.30** Bargain Hunt. **(R) 4.15** Escape to the Country. **(R) 5.00** Formula 1: Italian Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights. Suzi Perry introduces action from the session at the Autodromo Nazionale Monza, where the 12th round of the season is set to take place.
6.10 BBC News.
6.20 Regional Programme.
6.30 **Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present the general knowledge quiz with famous faces from television comedies, including Nigel Planer and Jeremy Dyson.
7.15 **Strictly Come Dancing – The Launch Show.** Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman host the launch event as this year's celebrities meet their professional partners, and there is music by singers Jess Glynne and Gregory Porter.
8.35 **The National Lottery: Five Star Family Reunion.** A UK family and their long-lost overseas relatives must work together in order to win a once-in-a-lifetime reunion in a five-star location. The overseas family must answer questions to win time for their relatives in the UK studio, who will then individually answer questions against the clock. Nick Knowles hosts. Includes the all-important weekend draw.
9.30 **Casualty.** Zoe convinces a bride-to-be to postpone her wedding after the groom passes out in a condemned building on his stag do. Meanwhile, Iain faces an assault charge after an altercation with a traffic warden and Louise must try to overcome challenges as she struggles on her first day of nursing.
10.20 BBC News; Weather.
10.40 **Mrs Brown's Boys;** (R) National Lottery Update.
11.10 **Film: Meet the Fockers.** (2004) A hapless groom-to-be faces a new ordeal when he takes his staid prospective in-laws to Florida to meet his eccentric parents. Comedy sequel, with Ben Stiller and Robert De Niro.
1.00 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.25 **Film:** The Secret Life of Walter Mitty. (1947) **8.10** **Film:** Hans Christian Andersen. (1952) **10.00** Animal Park. (R) **11.00** More Creatures Great and Small. (R) **11.30** More Creatures Great and Small. (R) **12.00** Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip. **(R) 12.30** Great British Menu. **(R) 1.00** Great British Menu. **(R) 1.30** Great British Menu. **(R) 2.00** **Film** It! **(R) 2.40** **Film:** That's Entertainment! III. (1994) **4.30** **The Hairy Bikers** Northern Exposure. **(R) 5.30** Gardeners' World. (R)
6.00 **International Rugby Union.** England v Ireland. Highlights of the Test match at Twickenham, which represented the final fixture for both teams ahead of the Rugby World Cup starting on 18 September.
7.00 **Proms Extra 2015.** Katie Derham looks back at the whole series, as well as focusing on Sir Andras Schiff and his performance of pieces including Bach's Goldberg Variations.
7.40 **Naturalist – Natural World.** The Mighty Shannon – cameraman Colin Stafford-Johnson takes a canoe journey along the River Shannon, revealing the wildlife that live in the water and along the banks. (R)
8.40 **Dad's Army.** The men of the Walmington-on-Sea Home Guard platoon take charge when a large naval gun is delivered to the church hall. Classic comedy, starring Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier. (R)
9.10 **Goodness Gracious Me Special.** One-off edition of the British-Asian sketch show, including a visit to the trenches of the First World War with Captain Brownadder. Starring Meera Syal and Sanjeev Bhaskar. (R)
9.40 **Cradle to Grave.** Comedy based on the early life of Danny Baker, starring Peter Kay and Lucy Speed. It is 1974, and 15-year-old Danny gets a West End experience he will never forget. (R)
10.10 **Boy Meets Girl.** Comedy about a man who falls for a transgender woman. (R)
10.40 **Country Strife: Abz on the Farm.** The first winter puts Abz and Vicky to the test. Last in the series. (R)
11.10 **Film: Boyz n the Hood.** (1991) Drama, with Cuba Gooding Jr.
12.55 **Film:** Black Eagle. (1988) **2.30** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Fish Hooks. **8.00** Young Justice: Invasion. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder: She Wrote. **(R) 10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **(R) 12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **(R) 1.40** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **2.25** You've Been Framed! (R) **2.55** The X Factor. **(R) 4.00** Regional Programme; Weather. **4.15** ITV News; Weather. **4.30** Euro 2016 Qualifier. San Marino v England (Kick-off 5.00pm).
7.15 **Keep It in the Family.** Bradley Walsh hosts the game show in which families from Kent and Luton go head to head in a series of fun-filled rounds. Six stars from last year's I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here face the drop as the teams decide whether to swap a prize, drop it or keep it in the family, and there are performances from an American human drumming act and a children's musical theatre group, singing a favourite number from Bugsy Malone.
8.15 **The X Factor.** Oily Murs and Caroline Flack host proceedings as the audition stages continue, with more hopeful contenders seek to win over the panel and secure a place at the Boot Camp. Doing so will first mean they must face the collective criticism of Simon Cowell, Cheryl Fernandez-Versini, Nick Grimshaw and Rita Ora.
9.30 **Through the Keyhole.** Pop star Kimberley Walsh, chat-show host Jonathan Ross and presenter Andi Peters make up this week's panel as Keith Lemon noses around the homes of mystery stars, rummaging through their most treasured possessions. With the help of the studio audience, the panelists use clues highlighted along each tour to work out which famous faces have agreed to hand over their house keys to the Celebrity Juice funnymen.
10.30 **ITV News:** Weather.
10.45 **Euro 2016 Qualifier Highlights.** Action from the latest qualifying matches, including Cyprus v Wales, Georgia v Scotland, Faroe Islands v Northern Ireland and San Marino v England.
12.15 The Cube. (R) **1.05** Jackpot247.
3.30 Show Me the Telly. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** Outlaw Triathlon. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** Rude(ish) Tube. **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Haydock Park, Kempton Park and Ascot. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** Come Dine with Me. (R)
6.15 **Come Dine with Me.** It is a final dinner party in Gloucestershire and the turn of hair salon owner Chris to host an evening of home-made treats, while the guests make a discovery in the living room. (R)
6.40 **Channel 4 News.**
7.00 **Great Canal Journeys.** Timothy West and Prunella Scales conclude their odyssey in the Burgundy region of France, where they travel along the Canal du Nivernais, which passes through towns and villages steeped in history. The duo also visit the market town of Chablis to help with the annual grape harvest and the medieval city of Auxerre before reflecting on what the journey has meant to them as a married couple. Last in the series.
8.00 **Our Guy in India.** Guy Martin takes a 1,000-mile journey across India to compete in a race called Rider Mania, the world's largest gathering of Royal Enfield motorbikes. In the first of two programmes, the daredevil rides with a 50-strong biker gang, visits Asia's biggest truck yard and finds himself completely out of his comfort zone. (R)
9.00 **It Was Alright in the 1970s.** New series. Matt Lucas narrates another look back at the decade's TV shows, beginning with 70s-style education, including the lessons learnt from television about society and sex.
10.00 **Film: Immortals.** (2011) A man is chosen by the Greek gods to prevent a power-mad king from conquering the human and immortal worlds. Mythological adventure, with Henry Cavill.
12.15 **Film:** The Double. (2013) **1.50** The Last Leg. (R) **2.45** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.55** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. **5.50** 101 Things You Should Know. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** SpongeBob SquarePants. **10.35** Beavere! Cowboy Builders Abroad. (R) **11.30** **Film:** McLintock! (1963) **2.05** **Film:** Shenandoah. (1965) American Civil War Western, starring James Stewart. **4.10** Psycho Pussies: When Cats Attack. (R) **5.10** Elizabeth II: The Longest Reign.
6.05 **The Nightmarer Neighbour Next Door.** A group of residents in Guildford object when the occupant of a one-bedroom council flat decides to transform his home into a "cannabis cafe". Having turned a blind eye to their unruly neighbour's all-night parties and unwelcome lodgers, this latest development proves to be a step too far. In a small community in Wales, new arrivals cause a stir when they decide to convert a local pub into their new home, and in Lincolnshire, a young father becomes the victim of a violent assault after asking the man living in the flat below his to keep the noise down. (R)
7.00 **Cricket on 5.** England v Australia. Action from the second contest in the five-match series, which took place at Lord's.
7.55 **5 News Weekend.**
8.00 **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Brian O'Shaughnessy and Graham Aldred's first case sees them in a Brighton health spa as they search for assets to seize in pursuit of a £220,000 debt. Following a stand-off, they devise a way to work with the owner and her professional advisers to come up with a solution. Later, Graham reveals his softer side when he revisits a woman who defaulted on a debt payment plan. (R)
9.00 **Football League Tonight.** Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's top matches, including Southend United v Peterborough United and Chesterfield v Wigan Athletic, as well as all the goals from League One and League Two.
10.30 **Celebrity Big Brother.** **11.30** **Tattoo Disasters UK.** A drunken man who used a tattoo gun to etch names on his arms, and a needle-phobic university student whose ear piercing led to a fight for her life. (R)
12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** **Celebrity Big Brother.** (R) **4.00** Transporter: The Series. **4.45** Access. **4.50** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes **7.15** Don't Tell the Bride **8.15** Top Gear Vietnam Special **9.30** **Film:** Deep Impact (1998) **11.20** Family Guy **1.15** Top Coppers **1.45** **Film:** 215 Impractical Jokers **3.45** Sunny D **4.00** Close
BBC Four
7.00 India's Frontier Railways **8.00** Sicily Unpacked **9.00** The Young Montalbano **10.55** Kate Bush at the BBC **11.55** The Kate Bush Story: Running Up That Hill **12.55** Sounds of the Eighties **1.25** The Fight for Saturday Night **2.55** India's Frontier Railways **3.55** Close
ITV2
12.00 The Xtra Factor **1.05** You've Been Framed! **2.10** Catchphrase **2.55** **Film:** Small Soldiers (1998) **5.10** **Film:** Peter Pan (2003) **7.20** **Film:** Dante's Peak (1997) **9.30** The Xtra Factor **10.30** **Film:** American Pie Presents: The Naked Mile (2006) **12.35** Tricked: More Favourite Tricks **1.40** Fake Reaction **2.15** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.40** The Hot Desk: Ella Henderson **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** **ITV2** Nightscreen **ITV3**
1.30 **Film:** The Belles of St Trinian's (1954) **3.20** Agatha Christie's Marple **5.25** **Film:** Columbo: The Bye-Bye Sky-High IQ Murder Case (1977) **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Lewis **10.00** A Touch of Frost **12.15** Wire in the Blood **1.40** On the Buses **2.05** **ITV3** Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV4
11.50 Hogan's Heroes **12.20** The Professionals **2.25** Pawn Stars **3.20** **Film:** Destry (1954) **5.20** **Film:** Gunsmoke (1953) **7.00** Cycling **8.00** **Film:** Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment (1985) **9.50** **Film:** The Sentinel (2006) **12.05** Cycling **1.00** The Cycle Show **1.55** Alias Smith and Jones **2.50** **ITV4** Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
11.00 How I Met Your Mother **12.00** Made in Chelsea LA **1.00** The Goldbergs **2.00** Melissa & Joe **3.00** **Film:** Angus, Thongs and Perfect Snogging (2008) **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** **Film:** Priest (2011) **10.50** Rude Tube **11.55** Bad Robots **12.25** Gogglebox **2.30** How I Met Your Mother **4.00** The Mindy Project **4.25** Suburgatory **5.10** Revenge **Film4**
11.00 Carry On Behind (1975) **1.00** Big Fish (2003) **3.25** The Longest Day (1962) **7.00** 17 Again (2009) **9.00** The Hunger Games (2012) **11.45** The Happening (2008) **1.30** Shutter (2008) **3.20** Close

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DIGITAL



9.00 Breakfast **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00 Sunday Morning Live**. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. **(R)**. **12.00** Bargain Hunt. **(R)**. **1.00** BBC News. **1.30** Weather. **2.00** Escape to the Country. **2.15** Eat Well for Less. **(R)**. **3.10** The Great British Bake Off. **(R)**. **4.10** Points of View. **4.25** Songs of Praise – Gospel Choir of the Year. **5.05** Formula 1: Italian Grand Prix – Highlights. Action from the 12th round of the season. **5.30** The Autodromo Nazionale Monza, where the contenders Lewis Hamilton, Nico Rosberg and Sebastian Vettel battled for precious points. **6.35** BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryside. John Craven takes to the skies with the Environment Agency's Cumbria to discover a new line of defence in the battle against flooding, which involves restoring rivers to their original meandering routes. Anita Rani meets a rural farming community that lost its livelihood to foot and mouth disease, and the woman who whispered whose life was turned around by her love of the animals. Plus, the One Man and His Dog sheepdog trial teams are profiled, with Adam Henson visiting the Cumbria, and Charlotte Smith heading to Scotland. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. New series. Fiona Bruce and the team return to examine more items brought in by viewers, beginning with a visit to the Middle Country House and Gardens on Anglesey. Collectibles assessed include a Victorian cane carved with an image of the Menai suspension bridge, an 18th century grandmaster's clock, and two giant toy giraffes.

9.00 Lady Chatterley's Lover. Adaptation of DH Lawrence's novel about an aristocratic woman who embarks on a passionate affair with her disabled husband's gamekeeper.

10.30 BBC News.

10.50 Regional Programme.

11.00 Kolkata. Sue Perkins. Sue Perkins details how the West Bengal state capital, formerly known as Calcutta, discarded its Colonial heritage to become a 21st-century city with a reputation for tolerance. **(R)**

12.00 Weather for the Week Ahead.

1.15 The Instant Gardener. (R) **7.00** Countryside. (R) **8.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.30** Terry and the Kids' Great Food Trip. (R) **11.00** Great British Menu. (R) **11.30** Great British Menu. (R) **12.00** Live Rowing.

2.00 Natural World: Heiligan – Secrets of the Lost Garden. (R) **3.00** Burghley Horse Trials. **5.00** Jungle Atlantis. (R) **6.00** **World's Wildest Events.** Chris Packham's *Wildlife Watch* presents a documentary unlocking secrets behind unusual occurrences, beginning with a monkey that knows first aid and a bird-killing solar death ray. (R)

7.00 **World's Busiest Railway 2015.** David Attenborough and Robert Leventon go behind the scenes at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus to find out what role it plays in long distance travel across India. (R)

8.00 **Dragons' Den.** Entrepreneurs pitch their money-making ideas including a storage business for public buildings, flat pack furniture and an invention to assist dog and horse owners.

9.00 **Special Forces – Ultimate Hell Week.** A former Israeli counter-terror operative puts the remaining 12 contestants through their paces, including trying to remove a Land Rover from a mud pit with their bare hands.

10.00 **Odyssey.** Odelle and Luc's hopes of leading a quiet life in Algeria are dashed when Odelle puts herself thrust into the media spotlight after rescuing a drowning girl.

10.40 **Family Guy.** Peter discovers his first name is actually Justin, and takes on the new monkier to create a better hipper alter-ego, before holding a party.

11.05 **Family Guy.** Meg has fun partying with Peter when he takes her to a college, and Brian has to learn how to live in the wild after being sprayed by a skunk and forbidden from visiting the house.

11.25 **Family Guy.**

11.45 **Film: Soul Men.** (2008) A soul-singing duo who have not spoken in years since falling out over a woman travel across America to perform at a tribute concert. Comedy, with Samuel L Jackson.

1.25 Sign Zone. Countryside. (R) **2.20**

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! (R)
6.25 Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35 Dino Dino.** (R)
6.45 Dino Dino. (R) **7.00 Sooty.** (R) **7.15 Sooty.** (R) **7.30 Super Hero.** (R) **7.45 Fish Hooks.** (R) **7.55 Fish Hooks.** (R)
8.25 ITV News. **8.30 Weekend.** **9.25 Murders.** *She Wrote.* (R) **10.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **11.30 ITV News.** *Weather.* **11.45 The X Factor.** (R) **1.00 Catchphrase.** (R) **1.15 Live Line.** Coverage of the coronation.
1.30 Catchphrase. (R) **4.45 Film:** Mr Bean's Holiday. (2007) Comedy, starring Rowan Atkinson.
6.15 Regional Programme: *Weather.*
**6.30 ITV News: *Weather.*
6.45 Animal Mums. How young animals copy their mother to learn new skills that are essential to keep the cubs alive in the wild, including cheetah cubs learning how to hunt, with Lissi Eichenberger of the Sanbona Reserve in South Africa explaining the different strategies of the hunt. Scottish researcher Eva Maria Uel reveals the different gestures used to beg for food from their mother and initiate play. Last in the series.
7.45 The X Factor. Caroline Flack and Olly Murs present further coverage of the coronation press, as another batch of applicants perform in front of judges Simon Cowell, Cheryl Fernandez-Versini, Nick Grimshaw and Rita Ora, as well as an arena audience of thousands, in the shape of winning one of the coveted places at the Boot Camp.
9.00 The Trials of Jimmy Ross. Jimmy sees a local drug dealer meeting Tony, an old partner in crime whose violent actions led to an arrest in his school days. When he learns that Ellie and Aaron are in trouble because of his actions, Jimmy finds himself forced to consider working with Tony once again. Jackie has an encounter with the police and is taken to the station, leaving her convinced that her husband cannot change. Drama, starring Ray Winstone.
**10.00 ITV News: *Weather.*
10.15 Film: *Notting Hill.* (1999) A London bookshop owner falls for a famous Hollywood actor, but intrusive media interest makes for a tricky relationship. Romantic comedy, with Hugh Grant and Julia Roberts.
12.35 Jackpot247. **3.00 Motorsport UK.**
3.50 ITV Nightscreen. **5.05 The Jeremy******

15.10 How I Met Your Mother, (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother, (R) **7.05** British GT, (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond, (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond, (R) **8.30** The Bill Engvall, (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch, **12.30** The Big Bang Theory, (R) **1.00** The Big Bang Theory, (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory, (R) **1.55** The Simpsons, (R) **2.25** The Simpsons, (R) **2.55** The Simpsons, (R) **3.25** Phil Spector, (R) **3.55** The Simpsons, (R) Location, Location, (R) **5.30** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 The Queen's Big Night Out. The story of VE Day 1945, when the future Queen and Princess Margaret joined revelers on the streets of London on May 8 to celebrate the end of the Second World War in Europe, (R)

8.00 Time Crashers. The celebrities experience life as servants in an Edwardian stately home in 1913, where the staff have to answer to a modern-day lord and a royal household keeper. Kirstie Alley is excited to be the Lady's maid, but the aloof manner of her mistress doesn't go down well with the Hollywood star. Greg Kurfurder stars as the butler who is in charge, including employing Keith Allen's chamber pot, and disaster strikes when housemaid Fern Britton drops some cake. The realities of life in the stately home as one of the celebrities is unceremoniously dismissed for refusing to carry out her duties. Presented by Tony Robinson.

9.00 Film: Iron Man 2. (2010) Premiere. Tycoon-turned-legend Tony Stark confronts a fearsome new foe in a Russian scientist using his own deadly hi-tech weapons to seek revenge. He also faces a struggle to keep his secrets out of the hands of both the government and a former rival, and discovers the armour he developed to fight evil is slowly killing him. Action adventure sequel, with Robert Downey Jr, Mickey Rourke and Don Cheadle.

11.30 Film: The Hurt Locker. (2008) A US war correspondent in Iraq is assigned a new leader whose reckless attitude puts all its members lives at risk. Kathryn Bigelow's drama, with Jeremy Renner and Anthony Mackie.

1.40 Film: Rust and Bone. (2012) **3.45**

10.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** Ticky Ticky. (R) **6.55** Chloë's Closet. (R) **7.10** The Cat in the Hat's Hat. (R) **7.15** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.30** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.40** Little Princess. (R) **8.00** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.10** Zack and Quack. **8.25** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.40** Jelly Jam. (R) **9.00** LazyTown. (R) **9.25** Dog and Duck. (R) **9.35** SpongeBob SquarePants. (R) **10.00** Football League Tonight. (R) **10.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.55** Film: Message in a Bottle. (99p) Romantic drama, with Kevin Costner and Robin Williams. **1.00** Film: The Untouchables (1991) Adventure, starring Elton Hawke. **5.25** Film: Superman II. (1980) Comic-strip adventure sequel, with Christopher Reeve.

8.05 **5 News Weekend.**

8.05 **Police Interceptors Unleashed with Vinnie Jones.** A drug dealer who's really with the cops gets burst through his door, but cannot hide the cannabis farm which is taking up a third of his house. Plus, an operation to catch cash-point thieves turns up some nasty surprises. **8.55** **Police Interceptors** rescue a man from his flooded flat and in Lincolnshire a vocal crowd seems a little too keen to receive a full cavity search. Presented by Vinnie Jones. (R)

9.00 **Celebrity Big Brother.** A chance to catch up with the latest events inside the house as the celebrities cope with living under constant surveillance, with all the arguments and alliances, as well as the revelations in the diary room.

10.00 **20 Moments That Rocked the 90s.** Cold Feet star Helen Baxendale presents a countdown of memorable moments from the 1990s, including the death of Diana, Princess of Wales and the chart battle between Blur and Oasis.

11.30 **Film: Alien Hunter.** (2003) Scientists examine an alien artefact found in Antarctica, only to unleash a strange creature and a race of flesh-eating virus. Sci-Fi thriller, starring James Spader and Janine Esler.

1.10 **SuperCasino.** Live interactive gaming. **3.10** **Beware: The Cops Are Watching.** (R) **4.00** **House Doctor.** (R) **4.25** **Make It Big.** (R) **5.45** **Angels of**

BBC Three

7.00 Great Movie Mistakes III: Not in 3D
7.05 Film: Sheriff Forever After (1980) **8.30**
World's Craziest Fools **9.00 Film:** Jarhead
(2005) **11.00** Russell Howard's Good News
Weekend Update **11.30** The American
Dad! **12.50** Family Guy **1.15** Top Coppers
1.40 Secrets of China **2.40** Don't Tell the
Bride **3.40** Raddges **3.55** Close

BBC Four

7.00 BBC Proms Sunday Symphony **8.00**
Nina Simone & Me with Laura Mvula **8.30**
Nicola Benedetti's Indian Serenade **9.30**
The American Century of Cinema at the
Cinema **10.30** Van Morrison – Up on
Cyprus Avenue **11.30** Thin Lizzy – Bad
Reputation **12.30** The Joy of the Guitar **1R1**
1.30 The Kinks at the BBC **2.30** Nina
Simone & Me with Laura Mvula **3.00** Nicola
Benedetti's Indian Serenade **3.30** Close

ITV2

12.20 Film: Cats & Dogs (1994) **2.05 Film**
The Flintstones (1963) **3.50** You've Been
Framed! **4.20** The X Factor: 5.35 The Xtra
Factor **6.40 Film:** E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial
(1982) **8.30** The Guinness Food **10.00 Film:**
The King of Kings (1927) **10.30** The
Totality Bonkers Guinness World Records
1.25 Viral Tap **2.05** Animal Practice **2.30**
Teleshopping

ITV3

12.25 Agatha Christie's Marple **2.25** Lewis
4.35 Inspector Morse **6.55** Agatha
Christie's Marple **9.00** The Airplane on the
Grass (1990) **10.25** Seinfeld **10.30**
Northern Lights **11.30 Film:** Meet Joe
Black (1998) **2.50** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.15**
Emmerdale

ITV4

5.45 Movies Now **6.00** Pawn Stars **6.25**
Cycling **7.30** Euro 2016 Qualifiers: Italy v
Gibraltar Kick-off **7.45pm.** **10.00** Cycling:
Tour of Britain **11.00 Film:** T2: Closer to the
Edge (2011) **1.05** Cycling **2.05** Hell on
Wheels **3.30** Teleshopping

E4

12.30 Couples Come Dine with Me **2.35**
Bad(Shi) Robots **3.30** Rude(Shi) Tube **3.50**
The Big Bang Theory **4.50 Film:** Alvin and
the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel **6.00**
6.20 Rude(Shi) Tube Shorts **6.30** The Big
Bang Theory **10.30** Gogglebox **12.35**
Young, Free & Single **1.40** Rules of
Engagement **2.30** Broke Girls **2.50**
Gogglebox **3.45** Hollywood
Films

11.00 Honey, I Shrunk the Kids (1989) **1.00**
Black Knight (2001) **2.45** Ace In
Continental Drift (2012) **4.30** The Death
and Life of Charlie St Cloud (2010) **6.25** We
Bought a Zoo (2011) **9.00** Shutter Island
(2010) **11.40** Weekend (2011) **1.40** Blue

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Heart of the Country, Channel 5, 3.15pm
The wife of a Wall Street stockbroker finds her glamorous existence brought crashing to a halt when her husband is imprisoned for fraud. Forced to return to rural North Carolina where she grew up, she attempts to make peace with her estranged father and deal with unresolved issues surrounding the death of her mother. Drama, starring Jana Kramer. (2013)

TUESDAY
My Neighbour's Keeper, Channel 5, 3.10pm
A woman unable to have children adopts her dead friend's kids, only to arouse suspicion that she killed their mother to gain a family. Drama, with Laura Harring and Linden Ashby. Edited for daytime broadcast. (2007)

WEDNESDAY
Deadly Pursuit, BBC1, 11.35pm
A big-city FBI agent heads into the rugged terrain of America's Pacific North West on the trail of a killer. When the criminal heads into the hills, the street-smart cop is forced to team up with a mountain guide to catch his target. Thriller, starring Sidney Poitier, Tom Berenger, Kirstie Alley and Clancy Brown. (1988)



Deadly Pursuit, Wednesday, BBC1, 11.35pm

THURSDAY
Garage Sale Mystery III: The Deadly Room, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Jennifer Shannon has a keen eye for a bargain, picking them up at garage sales and selling them for a tidy profit in her own shop. But she also has a nose for a mystery, which comes in handy when she uses her intuitive skills to investigate her friend's death in a multi-million dollar home with a dark history. Crime drama, starring Lori Loughlin. (2015)

FRIDAY
Rabbit Hole, BBC2, 11.05pm
A couple's happy lives are thrown into upheaval by the death of their son in a road accident. As they try to keep their marriage from falling apart, the wife forms a friendship with the driver responsible for the tragedy while the husband immerses himself in the past and turns to another bereaved parent for support. Drama, with Nicole Kidman and Sandra Oh. (2010)

New adaptation hopes to be a novel success

Here's a fact that may make some of those reading this article feel a little old – it's 22 years since Ken Russell's adaptation of DH Lawrence's controversial novel hit our TV screens.

Back then, the sight of Sean Bean's nether regions as he ran through the woods while chasing a naked Joely Richardson raised eyebrows and temperatures – and those who have seen the latest version of the tale claim it's all set to shock a new generation too.

Yes, even in an age where almost anything can be depicted on screen – or at least in Game of Thrones anyway – some people can still be surprised by what appears on a TV screen in the 21st century.

However, Richard Madden, who also stars in the aforementioned adaptations of author George RR Martin's work, is quick to allay any fears that this take is nothing but a long, sordid romp.

"Come on guys, we've got Google," he laughs. "There's nothing that's going to shock us that we're going to do in Lady Chatterley's Lover, is there?"

"All that stigma, all that smut's gone and it's actually just about these three people, which is the fascinating story of it. There's sex and passion in it, but we're not going to shock people like the book did."

The original novel was published in an abridged form in Britain in 1932; it took another 28 years before a full, unexpurgated version hit shelves, leading to an infamous obscenity trial involving Penguin Books. The publisher was found innocent, and the novel has remained in circulation ever since.

The three people mentioned by Madden are Oliver Mellors, the gamekeeper he himself plays, and his employers – Sir Clifford Chatterley and his wife, Lady Constance.

The Chatterleys are happily married until Sir Clifford returns from the First World War. Left impotent and wheelchair-bound by wounds suffered on the front line, he is a shadow of the dashing aristocrat he once was. As he becomes increasingly distant,

Constance finds herself becoming drawn to the brooding and lonely Mellors.

In 1920s Britain, the idea of a servant coveting with a member of the upper classes was shocking, scandalous and could end with them both being ostracised by their peers. Nevertheless, Mellors and Constance embark on an affair.

Sir Clifford begins to suspect something is going on, and despite his disabilities, it's clear his vengeance will be ruthless if the truth comes out.

Playing the Chatterleys are James Norton and Holliday Grainger, but it's Madden who is gaining the most attention from his participation in the project.

The trailer shows him bare-chested, and some observers have suggested the role could do for his career what Poldark has done for Aidan Turner's.

The screenplay has been penned by Jed Mercurio, whose previous credits include Bodies, Cardiac Arrest, The Grimleys and Line of Duty. A novelist himself, it would appear that Lawrence's work is in safe hands.



Holliday Grainger stars in Lady Chatterley's Lover, Sunday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Doc Martin, ITV, 9pm
New series. The return of the comedy drama about the lives of a GP and his patients in a seaside village in Cornwall. With Louisa visiting her mother in Spain to get some perspective on their marriage, Martin knows he needs to try to change for the sake of their relationship, so he endeavours to keep his promise to her to see a therapist. Aunt Ruth arranges an appointment for him with Dr Rachel Timoney, but a lifeboat training exercise causes problems for the doctor. Will he get back in time for his first session? Martin Clunes stars.

TUESDAY
Euro 2016 Qualifier, ITV, 7.15pm
Following their exploits in San Marino at the weekend, England welcome Switzerland to Wembley for their latest Group E qualifier. When the draw was initially made, tonight's visitors were regarded as the strongest opponents Roy Hodgson's men would encounter throughout the qualification process, but the reverse fixture at St Jakob-Park last September saw England claim a 2-0 win following a convincing performance, with both goals coming from Danny Welbeck. The Swiss

– who were once managed by Hodgson – are likely to include several players familiar to the Premier League among their ranks, including Xherdan Shaqiri, Valon Behrami and captain Gokhan Inler, who joined Stoke City, Watford and Leicester City respectively at the start of this season.

WEDNESDAY
Doctor Foster, BBC1, 9pm
It's tempting to turn the TV off and grab yourself a cuppa and a slice of cake once The Great British Bake Off has finished, but from this week, the smart thing to do would be to stay put on the sofa for this new drama. Written by award-winning playwright Mike Bartlett, it stars Suranne Jones as Dr Gemma Foster, a trusted GP with a thriving practice at the heart of a community. She seems to have the perfect life and be in complete control of everything thrown at her – until she begins to suspect that her husband (Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell's Bertie Carvell) is having an affair. Suddenly, Dr Foster is in turmoil, and begins an obsessive quest to unearth the truth.

THURSDAY
Hunted, Channel 4, 9pm
New series. In today's hi-tech world, where there is a CCTV camera on every corner and everything people do is monitored – from cash withdrawals and supermarket shopping to telephone calls and social media posts – how easy would it be to simply disappear? That's the challenge facing a group of ordinary British people in this social experiment which sees them going on the run and taking extreme measures to avoid detection. Where they go and what they do is entirely up to them – but with a team of expert 'hunters' tracking them down, the task promises to be a tough one.

Cradle to Grave, BBC2, 9pm
Continuing the 1970s-set sitcom based on the early life of radio DJ and writer Danny Baker. Things are looking up



Euro 2016 Qualifier, Tuesday, ITV, 7.15pm

for the future broadcaster when he has a few lessons in biology – both at school and in the bedroom. Meanwhile, his parents Bet and Fred expand their horizons with such rich new experiences as wine, a night out at the Bermondsey small retailers' dinner dance and the piece de resistance – a caravan holiday in Dymchurch. Starring Peter Kay and Lucy Speed, with Laurie Kynaston as the young Danny.

FRIDAY
Ripper Street, BBC1, 9pm
Who'd be a woman in 19th-century London? If Ripper Street is anything to go by, even if you somehow manage to avoid being murdered, there are plenty of other ways to become a victim. In this penultimate episode, it's the shadowy world of illegal abortionists that's thrust into the spotlight following the death of a chemist. Dr Frayn is keen to modernise the practices at the Obsidian Clinic to help the women affected, but she shouldn't count on Long Susan for support, as she's having enough trouble keeping one of her current business ventures going. Meanwhile, Reid is still in Whitechapel, supposedly because Mathilda wants to stay, but does he have his own reasons for not moving on?

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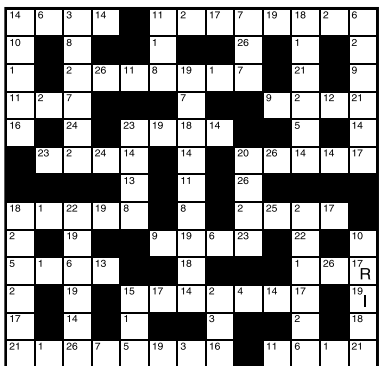
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BRAIN GYM No.341

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

H B Q V L M C Z K O F W E
P N R U I A S J X G D Y T

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

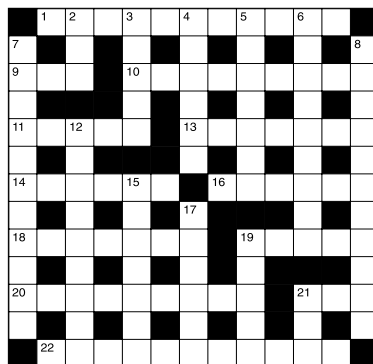
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 1. The end of all aspirations (5,6)
- 9. Food served at Noah's table? (3)
- 10. Pen name? (9)
- 11. Stops a baby crying with sweetmeats (5)
- 13. Just a second on earth, perhaps (7)
- 14. Start a new arrangement of beds (6)
- 16. Noah's final resting place (6)
- 18. It was plain to early American settlers (7)
- 19. It makes things less sharp (5)
- 20. Yearn for much later (4,5)
- 21. Old English port, not Scotch (3)
- 22. A candidate who fails to keep it is unlikely to get it (11)

Down

- 2. May turn up with something to eat (3)
- 3. Egg production centres (5)
- 4. A self-employed solicitor? (6)
- 5. Yet delight gives some men a mournful look! (7)
- 6. Antidote for those addicted to lying (5,4)
- 7. It doesn't take long to provide a deficiency (5,6)
- 8. Confidential sign employed by executives (11)
- 12. Start to play? (7,2)
- 15. Ran round in the commotion caused by the storm (7)
- 17. Having failed to win is punished (6)
- 19. Play with spirit on the street (5)
- 21. Lost no time putting up for election (3)



Quick Clues:

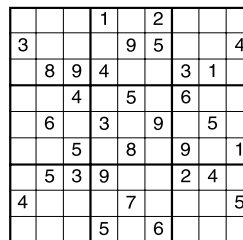
Across

- 1. Unconcerned (11)
- 9. Away (3)
- 10. Fool (9)
- 11. Rogue (5)
- 13. Knock down (7)
- 14. Anger (6)
- 16. Guard (6)
- 18. Tiny men (7)
- 19. Spot (5)
- 20. Nobody (9)
- 21. Tavern (3)
- 22. Principal part (7,4)

Down

- 2. Negative (3)
- 3. Emanate (5)
- 4. Starve (6)
- 5. Recovers (7)
- 6. Uncomfortable (3,2,4)
- 7. Accountancy (11)
- 8. Enterprise (11)
- 12. Haughtiness (9)
- 15. Smiled (7)
- 17. Apportion (6)
- 19. Lobby (5)
- 21. Unwell (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

7	1	4	2	8	5	6	3	9
2	8	6	7	9	3	5	4	1
5	3	9	1	6	4	2	7	8
1	7	2	4	5	6	8	9	3
3	4	8	9	1	2	7	6	5
9	6	5	8	3	7	4	1	2
8	5	3	6	4	1	9	2	7
4	9	7	3	2	8	1	5	6
6	2	1	5	7	9	3	8	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Rack; 3 Cabinets; 9 Special; 10 Third; 11 Mass hysteria; 13 Report; 15 Cornes; 17 Breaking down; 20 Alias; 21 Tourist; 22 Managing; 23 Play. Down: 1 Rosemary; 2 Chess; 4 At last; 5 In the long run; 6 Edition; 7 Side; 8 Light reading; 12 Mainstay; 14 Persian; 16 Pison; 18 Oriol; 19 Palm. QUICK - Across: 1 Doff; 3 Feasting; 9 Strange; 10 Means; 11 Authenticity; 13 Castle; 15 Crayon; 17 Congratulate; 20 Alien; 21 Avarice; 22 Disperse; 23 Delft. Down: 1 Distance; 2 First; 4 Events; 5 Semicircular; 6 Inaptly; 7 Gush; 8 Intelligence; 12 Inherent; 14 Stories; 16 Harass; 18 Alike; 19 Bald.

Quiz

- 1. Whom did Pilate set free in preference to Jesus?
- 2. In which Dickens book would you find the character Job Trotter?
- 3. In which year did the Jodrell Bank telescope become operational?
- 4. Which was the first country to grant women the vote?
- 5. In which year did Oliver Cromwell die?
- 6. What nationality was the composer Bedrich Smetana?
- 7. What is gynophobia?
- 8. Which car manufacturer made the Healey and Interceptor models?
- 9. Which London Underground line is coloured black on the network map?
- 10. What does the heraldic term mullet denote?

Last week's solutions:

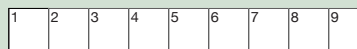
- Quiz: 1 1955; 2 Dame Nellie Melba; 3 George Woodcock; 4 Slowing down; 5 Ten; 6 Circe; 7 Tahiti; 8 Paris; 9 Ferdinand de Lesseps; 10 R.L. Stevenson.

Niner: SPRINKLED

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

- 9745332 gives a large animal,
- 958124 gives a male bird,
- 456 gives a fish.



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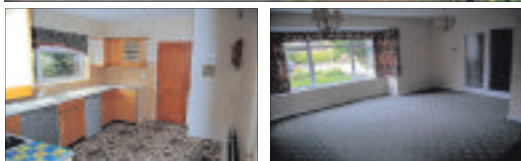
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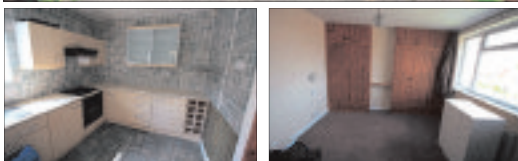


COCHRANE CLOSE PEDMORE

A Prestigious four bedroom detached property situated in a highly desirable residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, downstairs cloakroom, lounge/diner, kitchen, utility room, four bedrooms and bathroom. The property further boasts gas central heating, double glazing, garage, private driveway affording off road parking, carport, lawned foregarden and rear lawned garden with patio. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = F

DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£1200PCM DEPOSIT £1300 • FEES

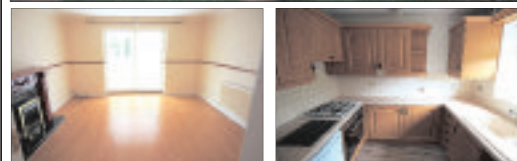


SYCAMORE ROAD KINGSWINFORD

A two bedroom end terrace property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, utility, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, rear garden with shed and greenhouse and to the front of the property there is a tarmac driveway affording off road parking. UNFURNISHED

EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: CAT SMOKERS: NO

£595.00PCM DEPOSIT £695 • FEES



THE WOODLANDS CRADLEY HEATH

A well presented two bedroom mid terrace property situated in a pleasant residential location within a quite cul de sac. Accommodation comprises of Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, conservatory and bathroom. The property further benefits from double glazing, front lawned garden, paved rear garden and communal off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO PETS: NO CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS: NO

£575.00PCM DEPOSIT £675 • FEES



OLD MILL FARM HOUSE BROMSGROVE ROAD
An Impressive Five Bedroom Property covering Three Storeys, being set in a Highly Sought After Rural Location. Accommodation comprises: Ground Floor - Three Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Utility, Downstairs WC and Lobby. First Floor - Bedrooms One and Two, both with En-Suites Shower Rooms Bedroom has En-Suite Bathroom. Second Floor - Bedrooms Four and Five and House Bathroom. In addition to a large Cellar there is a Double Garage, Storage Buildings and outside WC. The Property is approached by a gravelled driveway leading to the rear of the property where there is ample off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = F DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: MAY SMOKERS: NO

£2000PCM DEPOSIT £2100 • FEES

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WHEELER STREET STOURBRIDGE
A very well presented three bedroom end terrace property situated in the Old Quarter of Stourbridge and close to all amenities and local transport. The accommodation comprises of Lounge, dining room, rear lobby, kitchen and bathroom and three bedrooms. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, shared rear parking and enclosed rear garden mainly laid to lawn. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO PETS: No Children: Yes Smokers: No

£625.00PCM DEPOSIT £725 • FEES



VICARAGE ROAD LYE
A Three bedroom Mid Terrace property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Lounge, inner hall, dining room, kitchen, rear lobby, bathroom, first floor landing and three bedrooms. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and rear paved garden with part brick built store. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£550.00PCM DEPOSIT £650 • FEES



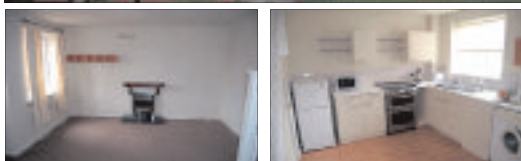
FOXDALE DRIVE BRIERLEY HILL
An extremely well presented two bedroom starter home in a popular residential location. The accommodation comprises of lounge, kitchen with appliances, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from electric heating, lawned foregarden and communal parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = TO FOLLOW DSS: NO CHILDREN: MAY CONSIDER PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£450PCM DEPOSIT £550 • FEES



DADFORD VIEW BRIERLEY HILL
A two bedroom second floor apartment within a popular residential location within easy access to Brierley Hill and Merry Hill Centre. Accommodation comprises of Communal entrance, private entrance hall with built in storage cupboard, lounge, fully fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from partial storage heating and double glazing. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS: NO

£400PCM DEPOSIT £500 • FEES



FOXDALE DRIVE BRIERLEY HILL

An extremely well presented one bedroom starter home situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Open plan kitchen/lounge, bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from having electric heating, double glazing, small open plan fore garden with patio area and allocated parking.

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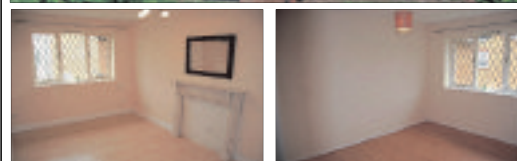
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An extremely well presented one bedroom first floor flat situated in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of Lounge, kitchen, bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from electric heating and allocated parking.

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Located overlooking open fields to the rear, a three bedroom semi-detached house requiring refitting/ refurbishment to current tastes. Porch. Through Living Room/ Dining Room. Kitchen. Bathroom. Separate w.c. Driveway & Garage. Excellent potential. EPC TBC

Guide Price £120,000 - £130,000

Close, Hagley DY9 0LU



A three bedroomed semi detached house requiring refitting and refurbishment. Porch. Hall. Through Living Room/Dining Room. Kitchen. Bathroom. Separate w.c. Garage. Driveway. EPC F

Guide Price £140,000 - £160,000

Queen Elizabeth Rd, K'minster, DY10 3BD

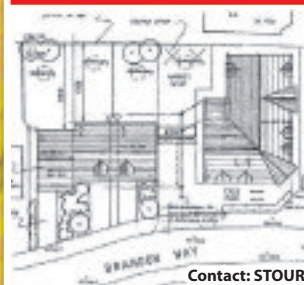


Requiring complete refurbishment - a freehold 3-bedroom end terrace family home on a large level plot within the popular Comberton estate, reception hall, living room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, separate wc, immense further potential, vacant possession upon completion. EPC D

Contact: STOURPORT OFFICE 01299 822060

Guide Price £75,000 - £95,000

Thorns Road, Brierley Hill, DY5 2JU



A freehold development site with Planning Permission preserved by the commencement of works under P07/1120 for the erection of nine dwellings - namely three x three-storey 2-bedroom houses ranging from approx. 838sq.ft to 934 sq.ft (GIA) plus a separate block of 6 x very spacious 1-bedroom apartments, all approx. 650 sq.ft. (GIA).

Contact: STOURPORT OFFICE 01299 822060

Guide Price £150,000 - £175,000

Bridge Road Cookley DY10 3SA



An exceptional opportunity to purchase a vacant shop (ex-butchers) adjoining house and associated storage rooms and separate building to the rear. Village centre location. Two/three investments units subject to further renovation/ improvement. Lots of potential. EPC E

Guide Price £220,000 - £250,000

Marlpool Lane Kidderminster DY11 5HP



A most appealing and attractive detached property built circa 1930. Porch. Hall. Living Room. Dining Room. Kitchen. Cloakroom/w.c. Rear Verandah/Porch. Three Bedrooms. Family Bathroom. Retains wealth of Period features. Large Gardens. Requires up-dating/ refurbishment. EPC F

Guide Price £155,000 - £175,000

Chester Rd North Kidderminster DY10 2RR



A substantial inter-war detached house requiring refitting and refurbishment. Large plot with driveway and off-street parking. Porch. Hall. Living Room. Separate Dining Room. Kitchen. Rear Sun Lounge/Verandah Porch. Fuel Stores. Traditional w.c. Three Bedrooms. Family Bathroom. Immense potential. Suitable for extension subject to obtaining the necessary Local Authority permissions. EPC D

Guide Price £160,000 - £185,000

Brook Street Kidderminster DY11 6RH



A three bedroom semi-detached family home set within a sought after and convenient cul-de-sac location. Reception Hall. Lounge. Kitchen & Dining Area. Garden Room. Three Bedrooms. Family Bathroom. Garage. Fore Garden. Long private and enclosed Rear Garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC E

Guide Price £120,000 - £125,000

Offmore Road Kidderminster DY10 1SA



Requiring complete refurbishment - the chance to breath life back in to a freehold 3-bedroom Victorian mid terraced house arranged over three floors in a popular and established residential location. Living room, kitchen, cellar, lobby/utility, bathroom, 3 bedrooms, small rear garden, vacant possession upon completion. EPC E

Contact: STOURPORT OFFICE 01299 822060

Guide Price £60,000 - £80,000

Blackwell Street Kidderminster DY10 2EE



Freehold retail shop in busy trading position with upper floor accommodation plus brick outbuilding - the whole requiring complete refurbishment. Sales area, kitchenette, 2 rooms to the first floor, immense further potential, vacant possession upon completion. EPC F

Contact: STOURPORT OFFICE 01299 822060

Guide Price £30,000 - £50,000



Explaining benefits of PCP

With Personal Contract Purchase (PCP) now one of the most popular finance methods UK motorists are using to buy a new car, Volvo dealership Brindley Wolverhampton looks to explain exactly how it works and the benefits for Wolverhampton locals.

The main reason for the fast rising popularity of PCP is the flexibility to suit different budgets. Drivers can choose the level of deposit and length of contract – typically two, three or four years – and whether they want to include maintenance. Drivers simply pay a fixed payment for the contract duration.

At the end of the contract, customers make a balloon payment so they own the car outright, or hand it back to the dealer and put any value from their

about selling or disposing of their car when replacing it.

As the new 65-plate cars hit the roads next month, the 141 Wolverhampton Road Volvo dealership in Wolverhampton is highlighting the benefits of buying a brand new car through the Volvo Advantage Plan.

Unlike a car loan which usually requires 40 to 60 per cent of the total purchase price, a car through the Volvo Advantage Plan only requires a small deposit.

There is less financial risk with a Volvo Advantage Plan contract. Customers are not paying for the entire cost of the car, just the depreciation over a set period in agreed lower monthly payments, usually three years.

There is greater choice for the customer at the end of the contract as final purchase is optional and the customer is given the chance to own the car or use the value in the car as a deposit for their next car.

Customers don't need to worry

about selling or disposing of their car when replacing it.

Paul Garbett, at Brindley Wolverhampton, said: "Volvo's Advantage Plan makes it easy for Wolverhampton locals to drive their car of choice. Only a small upfront deposit is required, accompanied by fixed monthly payments with flexibility at the contract end to keep, exchange or return the vehicle. We always encourage customers to come in and talk to us about finance options available to them so we tailor them to fit their personal requirements."

To get motorists into a new 65-plate car this September and working to suit everyone's budget, Brindley Wolverhampton is offering some very competitive PCP offers from just £269 per month through its Volvo Advantage PCP Plan.

For more information, or to arrange a test drive, please contact Brindley Wolverhampton on 01902 841931 or visit the website: www.volvocars.co.uk

09/09 Vauxhall insignia 2.0 Elite Turbo Estate Automatic 56k, Sage Metallic, Alloys, Cream Leather, Climate Control, E/Windows £7695 / £39 Per Week	09/09 Ford KA 1.2 Style 3dr, 39k, Blue metallic, CD player, E/Windows £4495 / £22 Per Week
07/07 Volvo V50 2.5 SE Lux D5 Estate Automatic 67k, Blue Metallic, Alloys, Grey Leather, Climate Control, E/Windows £6995 / £36 Per Week	09/09 Fiat Panda 1.1 Active ECO 5dr, *ONLY £80 ROAD TAX* ONLY 17k miles, White, CD Player, Electric Windows £3995 / £19 Per Week
09/09 Ford Fiesta 1.25 Zetec 3dr, ONLY 26k MILES, Red Metallic, Alloys, Air con, CD, Heated ft screen £6495 / £34 Per Week	10/10 Chevrolet Spark 1.0 Plus 43k, Silver, Air Con, CD, E/Windows £3995 / £19 Per Week
08/08 Volkswagen Golf 1.9 TDI Match Diesel 5dr, 72k, Red, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/Windows £6495 / £34 Per Week	08/08 Ford Focus 1.6 Style 5dr, *ONE OWNER* 55k, Red, Air Conditioning, CD Player, Electric Windows £3995 / £19 Per Week
07/07 Mini Cooper 1.6 With JCW Body Styling 72k, Red/Black, Alloys, Red Leather Trim, Air Con, E/Windows, Fog Lights £5995 / £30 Per Week	07/07 Ford Fiesta 1.4 Ghia 3dr, 53k, Violet, Alloys, Full Leather, Air Con, Heated Screen, CD £3995 / £19 Per Week
09/09 Ford Focus 1.6 Style 5dr, 33k, Grey Metallic, Alloys, Air con, CD, E/Windows £5695 / £27 Per Week	07/07 Ford Fusion 1.4 Style Climate 51k, Blue, *LOW INSURANCE* Air Con, CD, Climate Pack £3995 / £19 Per Week
07/07 Citroen C4 Grand Picasso 1.6 HDi VTR Plus Diesel Automatic 7 Seater, 64k, Beige, Alloys, CD, E/Windows £4995 / £24 Per Week	07/06 Vauxhall Tigra 1.4 16V Exclusiv 2dr Convertible, 47k Miles, Silver, Alloys, Full Leather, Air Con, CD, E/Windows £3795 / £18 Per Week
06/06 Suzuki Grand Vitara 1.6 VVT + 3dr 4WD *ONE OWNER* 56k miles, Silver, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/Windows £4995 / £24 Per Week	08/07 Ford KA 1.3 Luxury ONLY 12k Miles, Blue, Full Leather, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/Windows £3495 / £18 Per Week
01/01 Landrover Discovery TD5 GS Diesel Automatic 7 seater, 89k, Green, Alloys, E/Windows, Twin Sunroof £4995 / £41 Per Week	07/07 Kia Picanto 1.0 Zipp 5dr, 44k, Red, E/Sunroof, CD, E/Windows £2695 / £16 Per Week

Finance example: 07/07 Ford Fiesta 1.4 Ghia 3dr, Cash Price £3995, Deposit £300, Amount of credit £3695, Fixed interest rate 6.25% Flat rate, 11.8% APR, 60 Payments of £80.83 (£18.66 per week) Total amount payable £5149.80 (Excludes £150 Document fee and £150 Completion fee, Subject to status)

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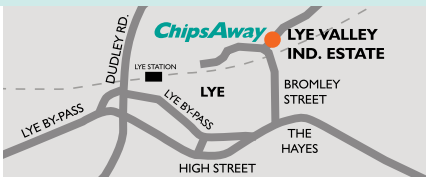
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DRIVETIME



Bangers selling like hot cakes

Sales of 'banger' cars are rising fast, while prices are even increasing for cars aged 10.5 years old and over.

Even though there are now more bangers coming on to the market, the average price paid at auction for this type of car at auction has risen from £725 in 2013 to £875 in June 2015.

The availability of cheap PCP (personal contract plan) deals for new cars has encouraged many drivers to give up their bangers.

However, even with more bangers coming on to the market, there has been a substantial rise in demand that

means there are more buyers than cars available, so prices have firmed up.

Rupert Pontin, head of valuations at Glass's, said: "We are seeing something interesting going on."

"Since the start of 2013, the number of cars over 10.5 years old being sold at auction has increased by around 50 per cent."

"We believe this is because large numbers of buyers are selling their bangers and signing up to low-cost new and used car PCP deals to get behind the wheel of a newer model."

"However, instead of this flood of bangers entering the market leading to a collapse in values, they have actually increased quite substantially. Enough

new buyers are entering the market to soak up the extra volume and the banger market is actually in excellent health."

Pontin added: "Partially this is as a result of improving economic conditions as more people are feeling confident about buying and running a car at the entry level. However, the quality of older cars on sale is improving all the time, which helps."

"We see many bangers going through auction in excellent condition at very reasonable prices and, for many people, they make extremely sensible purchases."

"It is very much a case of: 'The banger is dead. Long live the banger'."

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public & legal notices

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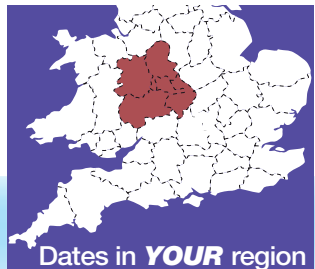
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JAN 35yr old blue eyed blonde, outgoing, friendly, WLTm passionate guy to share good wine, good conversation, flirting and fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418609

KERRY Ann, 39yrs hairdresser, loves to run her fingers through hair! Chaps 30+ pls text, no young lads pls. Text only to Mailbox No: 415505

ATTRACTIVE professional lady, widow, 50's, likes walks, sight seeing, theatre, meals out, seeks genuine, professional gent, 5ft 9ins plus to make life more enjoyable. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418615

JAN 35yr old blue eyed blonde, outgoing, friendly, WLTm passionate guy to share good wine, good conversation, flirting and fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418609

SENSUAL tactile, attractive female, long blonde hair, blue eyes, loves travel, winning/dining, WLTm genuine male for mutual companionship. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418587

BROKEN hearted lady 39 seeks loving male to mend heart age 39/40. Text only to Mailbox No: 4869116

KAY, very young 45, fit and active, no ties, seeks similar young at heart, fun male for fun meets. Age/Status/Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418577

VIVACIOUS strawberry blonde who knows just what she wants, looking for caring male for spontaneous fun relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418445

WENDY, 40, slim, fit, bubbly female looking to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418369

JO 55, curly redhead, loves eating out, theatre, travel, looking for middle-aged prince charming to sweep me off my feet. Text only to Mailbox No: 4464905

GENUINE lady looking for genuine male, age 58-60, for friendship and to have a laugh with. So if that's you would love to hear from you. Text only to Mailbox No: 4537136

SINGLE mom, 40yrs, small, not skinny WLTm single dad aged 39 to 45. Text only to Mailbox No: 4295299

LADY young at heart, nice eyes, seeks man 42-52 with good sense of humour. Text only to Mailbox No: 4881572

AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 515 4292 Box 418117

VIRGINIA, outgoing social female, 24, tall slim and attractive, looking for fun times, maybe more. Can accommodate/travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418645

DISCREET man wanted by married lady for no strings fun. I'm called Sarah and am 37yrs. Pls call, ACA Tel No: 0906 515 4299 Box 418167

LOOKING for the right chemistry with country loving gent who like me is looking for some extra fun in their life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418843

ANNA, bustly mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. Tel No: 0906 515 4295 Box 366019

LYN, 43, divorced very lonely single mum, young looking, slim, attractive, WLTm similar male for companionship. Age/looks/Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418795

MAUREEN, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 4275 Box: 405297

SOPHIA very sensual black lady looking to acquire a new distraction with lots of adult fun, thrown in for good measure. Race/age/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413399

POLLY, 36yrs, cuddly, curvy with fantastic personality, works from home so has time on her hands. Text only to Mailbox No: 4068850

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FEEMALE seeking gent 55-70, down to earth, nice and intelligent who knows how to treat a lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417195

YOUNG early 40's female, GSOH, kind, caring, considerate, seeks male for friendship, possible romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410847

CAROL 49, attractive, green eyed blonde, honest warm hearted, n/s with GSOH likes cinema, music, walking, meals out and travel seeking similar male. Text only to Mailbox No: 4283683

FEEMALE, 50, short blond hair, blue eyes, 5ft 10, slim build, looking for a man 50-55 with salt and pepper hair and GSOH. Text only to Mailbox No: 4435776

HEATHER, 34, single very attractive brunette, sensual and interesting, looking to add to life's experiences and adventures with professional male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418193

PAT 66, attractive, N/S, likes reading, nights out, seeks gent for friendship, days out and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418277

68YR old widow, attractive, seeks sincere, N/S male, likes reading, meals out and walks. West Midlands. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414773

WENDY, 40, slim, fit, bubbly female looking to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418369

EILEEN, slim green eyed brunette likes meals out and cosy nights in, seeks tall male who would make her laugh and brighten up her day. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418347

FEEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287

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EMMA, 43, easygoing female looking to broaden her horizons, WLTm similar male for romantic liaisons. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418009

SHARON, 48, tall slim attractive, live alone with no ties, love romanticising and WLTm man for good times together, maybe more. Any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417751

FEEMALE, 36, looking for a genuine guy to wine and dine with lots of laughter and fun times. Text only to Mailbox No: 4758012

CARINA lovely curvy female 41 seeks genuine and caring guy. Text only to Mailbox No: 4721992

JACKIE lonely and looking for male companion, 48-65. Need a bit of love and affection? Then I'm your girl. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418169

JAN, 47, once bitten twice shy! Looking for a new complicated fun time. Attractive, discreet, OHAC, you won't be disappointed. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418089

MID naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you won't be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409109

TRACY, slim attractive cheerful brunette, enjoys aromatherapy/massage, looking for male who appreciates a feminine, sensual lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417787

THEA, 36, extrovert brunette, curly hair, rugby fan, WLTm genuine male who will accept her as she is. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417763

ATTRACTIVE kind, caring, single lady, loves animals, WLTm uniformed office for genuine, sincere relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416979

FEEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287

ELLEN 45, attractive, with statuesque curvy figure, looking for an uncomplicated relationship with understanding male friend. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417663

KAREN 51fins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416337

JULIE, attractive early 40's brunette, size 10, varied interests, WLTm male for fun times, good conversations, spilling and maybe more. status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418007

JANE, 47, voluptuous female, long hair, brown eyes, generous curves, would love to spend cosy nights in with that special male. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417985

TRACY, slim attractive cheerful brunette, enjoys aromatherapy/massage, looking for male who appreciates a feminine, sensual lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417787

BOSTON female 56 loyal, intelligent, loves history seeks dependable humorous male for friendship. Text only to Mailbox No: 4751421

MARIA gorgeous leggy blonde seeks tall professional male for fun nights out, cosy nights in with plenty of TLC and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416861

SUSAN 44, stunning curvy blonde, fit and active seeks happy go lucky male for good conversation, fun times, maybe more. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416801

FEEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287

TRACY, 39, brunette, outgoing, down to earth, fit and active has much to offer some one special. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417417

SUSANNAH, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417341

SUSANNAH, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417341

JEAN, shy brunette with lots of love to give to the right man, seeks mature male to share relationship with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417285

GWEN 38, large breasted, seeks Indian/Pakistani/Kurdish male for daytime fun. Can Travel/accom. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417233

FUN loving and independent hot woman looking for a sexy man for fun and maybe more, GSH and grey hair preferable! Text only to Mailbox No: 4709317

KIND caring lady early 30s, 5ft5, slim fair hair looking for long-term relationship in Livingston. Spn area. Text only to Mailbox No: 452722

HAPPY, fit, 77yr old widow N/S 5ft 31n, GSOH, loves travel, many interests. WLTm man with caravan/camper to share week-ends/holidays. Text only to Mailbox No: 4429014

LISA, 31yr old petite bundle of fun looking for fun, easygoing, genuine guy. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417223

LINDA, 47, brown-eyed blonde, caring, loving and honest, many interests, seeks genuine male to share lonely evenings with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417211

FEEMALE seeking gent 55-70, down to earth, nice and intelligent who knows how to treat a lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417195

KATHERINE, romantic, slim, feminine, loves life to the full, seeks adventurous outgoing male to appreciate and share life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417091

SANDY, mature, very young looking widow seeks fit young man to enjoy fun, cuddles and kisses. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417581

SHERRIE 32, blonde, great company, loves going out, looking to share life with that special someone. Status/Looks/age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417067

KAREN 50, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, GSOH, loving, caring, understanding, seeking similar male, 55-55. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416989

THELMA, 43, attractive blonde, seeks loving, honest, funny male to pamper and make happy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416979

FEEMALE, kind caring and loving seeks similar male for relationship text only all texts answered. Text only Mailbox No: 465519

PRETTY slim female, 48, N/S, no ties, seeks tall, slim level headed male for initial friendship and evenings out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416727

Hi my name is Zara. I am 5ft 4ins, slim build. I am looking for a genuine male aged between 45 and 50 with GSOH who enjoys going out. Text only Mailbox No: 4362903

THELMA, 43, attractive blonde, seeks loving, honest, funny male to pamper and make happy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416979

DAWN attractive, easygoing, and dazzling, WLTm well built mature male for fun loving no strings romance. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416917

MID naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you won't be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409109

KAREN medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins, seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415429

MARIA gorgeous leggy blonde seeks tall professional male for fun nights out, cosy nights in with plenty of TLC and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416861

SUSAN 44, stunning curvy blonde, fit and active seeks happy go lucky male for good conversation, fun times, maybe more. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416801

FEEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287

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SANDY, mature, very young looking widow seeks fit young man to enjoy fun, cuddles and kisses. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417581

KAREN 51fins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416337

JUNE 50, beautiful, funny, warm, young looking blonde WLTm attractive down to earth male for no strings fun, laughter and love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416299

SHELLY 36, tiny shy brunette seeks down to earth, sensitive, older male to snuggle up, share a bottle of wine with and pamper. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416235

KATHERINE 33, pretty blonde would love to get intimate with outgoing, fit guy who is also looking for fun relationship with no strings. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416197

PAT 51s, 2ms, medium build, attractive, blonde hair, widow, seeking N/S, sincere gent for friendship and days out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416057

ALICE 36, tall and slim with long brown hair, outgoing and sporty seeks funny, intelligent guy to share active days and cosy nights. Age/looks not important. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416087

DIANE 37, sensual, tactile and loving seeks tall male for interesting conversations and cosy intimate nights together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416085

BRIDGET 48, voluptuous, seductive and very saucy, seeks male for lots of TLC and to give me very happy in return. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416083

ATTRACTIVE tall, dark, professional gent, GSOH, likes sports, socialising, good company, seeking female with GSOH for laughs, conversation and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415969

KAREN 50, widow, 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks with GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415871

STELLA 50, gorgeous, voluptuous and all woman seeks sensual older male, who knows just what he wants for lots of naughty fun and TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416707

SLIM fair-haired lady, 5ft4 looking for a male 30 to 40 for LTR in Warwickshire area. Text only Mailbox No: 452722

STELLA 50, gorgeous, voluptuous and all woman seeks sensual older male, who knows just what he wants for lots of naughty fun and TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416707

PAULA 40, sensual, young at heart brunette looking for some fun and romance with a tall outgoing man. Call me you'll feel the same. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416681

VAL 41, pretty, cuddly, flirty, seeks similar fun loving male for an uncomplicated no strings relationship. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416601

EILEEN 49, lovely brunette, adventurous and eager to please seeks intelligent male to share the fun side of life together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416521

CHRISTINE 48, shy sensitive brunette looking for lively older male to make her smile again and bring back some passion. s Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416519

BEAUTIFUL full figured, down to earth black beauty, 37, looking for some serious fun with an experienced, confident, older guy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416499

SINCERE lady, seeks similar gent, widower preferred, 60-67, 5ft 6ins, so slightly taller than me, N/S, car owner and likes a dog. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416471

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

PHILLIP, retired bank manager, 62yrs, seeks young attractive lady, single mums welcome. Text only to Mailbox No: 4123774

STEVE young 40, looking for uncomplicated adult fun with any age race female ACA. Text only to Mailbox No: 4880449

TALL dark, attractive white female, 57, seeks attractive, Asian/black female for discreet, daytime fun, 20-45. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417483

SLIM attractive man, 52, caring, GSOH, WLTm lady for friendship. Please reply and claim my last Rolo. Text only to Mailbox No: 4172082

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WINK 26

Heathens hand out a crushing defeat

CRADLEY got back to winning ways in spectacular fashion with a crushing 58-35 victory over King's Lynn at Perry Barr.

Having seen their National League title hopes all but ended by a 46-44 defeat loss to the Young Stars at Saddlebow Road, the Heathens gained comfortable revenge.

Faultless paid maximums from Max Clegg and Matt Williamson were backed up by several more impressive displays as team boss Will Pottinger's side moved back within a point of second placed Eastbourne in the table.

After a flying start, Arron Mogridge dusted himself down from an awkward bend one tangle to hold off the hard-charging Darryl Ritchings in heat five to put them 10 clear.

Another composed ride from reserve Mogridge to partner Williamson in heat seven left Cradley well and truly in control with a 16-point lead – although the visitors did hit back with a big 8-1 courtesy of Ritchings in heat eight.

However, the Heathens overpowered the Young Stars, claiming 5-1s in heats 12, 13 and 15 including a daring last-to-second blast from Clegg to join Williamson at the front in heat 13.

Neale played a key role before fortunately walking away from an awkward looking heat 10 tumble.

Ellis Perks added three race wins in a strong all-round performance.

Cradley: Matt Williamson 17+1, Max Clegg 13+2, Arron Mogridge 11+1, Ellis Perks 10, Michael Neale 5+2, Luke Harris 2+1, Nathan Greaves R/R.

King's Lynn: Josh Bailey 11+2, Darryl Ritchings 11+1, Tom Stokes 6, Scott Campos 3+1, Ryan Kinsley 3, Layne Cupitt 1+1, Shane Hazelden R/R.

Bid to sign Mason hits the buffers

CRADLEY'S move to sign experienced rider David Mason has fallen through.

Heathens had verbally agreed a deal with the racer, who has been sidelined since suffering a broken leg riding for Eastbourne in June.

However, after meeting with his specialist he has been told he is not yet ready to resume racing, meaning the Heathens are now set to continue operating rider replacement for the remainder of the season.

Club director Nigel Pearson has thanked Mason for his professionalism during the process.

"As a club we always try our very best to keep our supporters informed, which is why we revealed we were very close to bringing in a new rider," Pearson said.

"We can now confirm that rider was David Mason."

DK show promise in defeat



DK try to get the ball moving from a scrum

Bromsgrove 31 DK 12

DK showed promise in this pre-season friendly, played over three periods, the first two over 30 minutes and the final one over 20.

The first period was tight with both defences stretched on occasions.

It was increasingly looking like a scoreless opening period, when DK took the lead through Luke Greenwood, who touched down after a good driving maul from a lineout that had taken place after a penalty kick had been expertly put into the corner.

This stirred Bromsgrove into action and they hit back quickly with two tries.

The second period was also won by Bromsgrove 12-7, with three tries being scored, but two of the

three were from dropped balls. Nic Adams replied when a Bromsgrove scrummage was put under pressure on their 22, and the DK back row forced the Bromsgrove No 8 to spill the ball. and Adams, ever aware, pounced and sped to the line, touching down. Duncan Tompkins slotted yet another touchline kick.

Scoring

In the final period, Bromsgrove pressure told when a penalty was kicked into the corner. Bromsgrove sent the quick ball wide, and with a well worked backs move scoring out wide.

On Saturday, the firsts are at home to Stoke-on-Trent.

Chairman Lewis on 20 years not out

GORDON Lewis can look back with great pride as he celebrates his 20th year as chairman at Himley Cricket Club.

But you get the impression that the summer of 2015 will give him more satisfaction than any other.

The Stourbridge Road outfit have taken massive strides on and off pitch under the guidance of Lewis and a dedicated committee.

The club have progressed from the Staffs Clubs through to the top flight of the Birmingham League, built a new home, formed a thriving youth section and added a second pitch to their base.

But if Lewis was looking for the ideal way to mark his personal milestone, it came earlier this month at Oundle School in Northamptonshire, where the Himley Under-15s were crowned ECB National champions.

And Lewis, who manages the side with coach Tony Lea, is bursting with pride.

"The club has come a long way and a lot of people have put in so much work to help us achieve so many things," said Lewis, 52.

"But out of all the things we have achieved the youth section gives me the greatest amount of pride and that day at Oundle was the pinnacle of everything."

Stepped

It's all a far cry from when Lewis stepped into the chairman's role – a position his dad also filled. "When I took over there was no junior section," said Lewis.

"For the first five years myself and Terry Pearce had 20 kids who played under-13s and under-16s. We really struggled.

"Some parents started to help us but the junior section really kicked on when Guy Whittaker took over as junior chairman.

"Guy and his committee have been incredible. The youth section is thriving and we have plenty of youngsters playing senior cricket for us on Saturdays and Sundays."

Lewis was just seven when he first went along to watch his dad play for the club.

And apart from brief spells playing for West Bromwich Nomads and Dudley, Himley has been his cricketing home.

"I used to go and watch my dad play and then



Himley chairman Gordon Lewis who has seen the club transformed in his 20 years there

I started scoring," he said. "That got me hooked on cricket. I played for a couple of other clubs for a while because I couldn't get a game at Himley and just wanted to play.

"But I came back when Dudley's ground collapsed in about 1985 and I have been here ever since."

The club bears little resemblance now to the one that wicketkeeper Lewis used to play for.

"We were in the Staffs Clubs in those days.

"The old clubhouse needed a fortune spending on it. We were left a sizeable legacy, £95,000, by our former president Bill Simpson and we had two options.

"We could spend it on the existing clubhouse or have a bash at trying to get a grant from the National Lottery." The bid for lottery cash was successful and a new clubhouse went up in 2001.

"I absolutely love the place and I plan to stick around for a while yet," he added.

Cradley still have hopes of claiming silverware

CRADLEY boss Will Pottinger is urging his side to end the season in style with hopes still high for a trophy or two.

Heathens saw their hopes of a third successive league title dashed with defeat at Rye House. But they're in the semi-finals of both the Gold Cup and Knockout Cup which means there's still plenty to race for.

With tricky National League away meetings at Buxton and Coventry approaching, followed by the final home league clash of the season with Rye House at Perry Barr, Pottinger is hoping to see them build up a strong run of form.

Pottinger said: "It's been a tough season for us, and we are disappointed to just fall short as far as the title is concerned, but we are still looking to end the season with some silverware.

"We've been unlucky at times, we had Nathan (Greaves) and Mikey (Neale) both get injured at the same time which led to those two defeats against Mildenhall and Birmingham.

"We've been playing catch-up since then, and even though we've given it our best shot we just didn't quite have enough in the end.

"We've still got plenty to play for though, and we are looking forward to trying to win some trophies in the Gold Cup and Knockout Cup.

"It's all still to play for, so we are looking forward to the rest of the season and hopefully finishing on a high."

Heathens are represented by Max Clegg and Ellis Perks at King's Lynn on Saturday in the National League Pairs Championship.

First half nap hand as Darlo are trounced

Team Dudley 5 Darlaston 0

TEAM Dudley plundered five first-half goals to inflict a first West Midlands One defeat of the season on Darlaston Town (1874). In fact, it was Town's first league defeat since April 4.

It took the hosts just three-and-half minutes to score as Ryan Spittle forced his way through the Darlaston defence to slice the ball past Chris Collins.

It was two on 17 minutes when a Nathan Jones corner curled across a packed goalmouth and struck the inside of the far post before going in.

Lee Clarke made it 3-0 with a terrific individual goal that started inside his own half.

Spittle netted his second on 37 minutes and Jones rounded Collins for the fifth.

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Low score hinders bid to stay up

Stourbridge 82 a/o (35 overs) lost to Eastnor 83-4 (14 overs) by six wickets
STOURBRIDGE'S elation at beating Tamworth a week ago was short lived after losing to Eastnor on Saturday.

Eastnor, who claimed 20 points for the victory, are at the bottom of Division Two of the Birmingham and District league.

On Bank Holiday Monday all Division Two matches were abandoned, leaving Eastnor, Stourbridge and Brewood in a tight cluster. Six points separate Eastnor and Stour and there are four points between Stour and Brewood. Two bottom teams will go down to Division Three.

Saturday's game at the Memorial Ground was a disaster for Stourbridge. Batting first the home side collapsed to 82 all out in just 35 overs. Skipper Matt Bradley top scored with 18 off 54 balls. He was given out controversially leaving a delivery from Atiq Ur Rehman. At that stage Stour were six down for 50 destroying any hopes of points for safety from relegation.

A ninth wicket partnership of 26 between brothers Jitesh and Mitesh Jivan Patel was also cut short by a doubtful decision by the umpire, judging the latter out caught for 10.

Opening bowler Raheel Lone did the damage taking 4-25 off 10 overs.

Stour did make an early breakthrough taking the wicket of Joseph Maydenbwa run out for 13. With score on 43 Nabeel Ali had the other opener Clive Chadhani brilliantly caught in the slips for 16 in the eighth over. Stour grabbed two more wickets but by that time Eastnor had made 77 in just 13 overs.

Stour next take on Wombourne at home, noon start.

Tivi cup runs on as single goal sets up Glassboys tie

Market Drayton 3 Tivdale 0
TIVIDALE suffered a miserable Bank Holiday Monday as Market Drayton picked up their first Evo-Stik First Division South points of the season with a 3-0 win.

They had to dig deep to withstand a dangerous start by Tivdale, inspired by an outrageous second minute effort from winger Ashley Jackson that looped high over keeper Ash Rawlings and hit the junction of bar and post.

But the opening goal, a classy near-post clip shot by Simon Everall from Michael O'Reilly's hard low 35th minute corner, was no surprise.

Tivdale started the second half strongly but Drayton moved up a gear with a stunning second strike on 66 minutes through Scott Ryan.

The third, five minutes from time, saw full-back James O'Reilly get on the end of a hard low corner from brother Michael with a snap shot that skidded home through a crowded goalmouth.

Tivdale's FA Cup adventure will continue, however, as they edged out Hanley Town to set up a home tie against rivals Stourbridge.

Chris Sterling scored the only goal.

Ragged display proves costly for Lions

Shrewsbury 15 Stourbridge Lions 8

FOLLOWING the previous week's successful friendly at Malvern the Lions entered their first competitive challenge in the cup away at league rivals Shrewsbury.

A ragged display, particularly in attack, led to a disappointing defeat in a game they knew they could and should have won.

Missing the dynamic Scotty Langdon at 8, the loss of Charlie Harris after a mere 15 minutes only exacerbated the problem.

However, with the defensive side of their game working well, the Lions managed to repel the

Rugby

home attacks and make inroads themselves and a try came after a period of pressure at the end of the first quarter. Will Fallows' effort went unconverted.

Most of the rest of the half was uneventful save for a penalty on the half hour by Shrews to reduce the deficit and a try right on half-time to give them an 8-5 lead.

The second half made grim reading although the defence again held up well, conceding only one try with about 10 minutes to go. Again, however,

continuity was poor, with a knock-on or dropped ball severely hampering the flow of attacks. A Sam Wilson penalty at the start of the final quarter did briefly bring the side back level.

The winning try came from a collection of mistakes in the Lions 22 just after a series of promising moves had ended with yet another knock-on deep in the home half.

A poor scrum allowed the ball to shoot out of the side of the scrum and the Shrews back row took full advantage.

The Lions return to action with their first league game on September 12.

Diop brace helps brush Yeltz aside

Sutton Coldfield 3 Halesowen 0

NEW signing Mo Diop hit a brace as Sutton Coldfield swept aside a disappointing Halesowen 3-0.

The Yeltz made a shaky defensive start as Danny O'Callaghan struck the crossbar in the 10th minute.

Halesowen's best chance fell just three minutes later when Jean-Michel Gueyres made a dangerous run down the right and crossed for George McGee to side-foot a great chance over the bar.

The Royals took a deserved lead in the 34th minute when O'Callaghan found space down the right and crossed for Diop to slot home.

Halesowen changed formation at the interval with a double substitution but the visitors made no further impression in the second half.

French striker Diop - just signed from Nuneaton - scooped over the bar in the 49th minute but soon steered home his second goal after being set up by O'Callaghan once again on the hour.

The Royals coasted towards their first victory since promotion and former Yeltz midfielder Aaron Forde made it a comprehensive 3-0 after 75 minutes with a low skidding shot.

Halesowen Town 2 Workington 0

MANAGER John Hill praised his team's hard work in bouncing back to winning ways after Greg Pearson and Isaac Cooper scored their first Halesowen goals.

The Yeltz took the lead just eight minutes in when Joe Hull headed on Jay Denny's free-kick for Pearson to turn and fire past Alex Mitchell.

The second goal in the 73rd minute owed much to the perseverance of substitute Cooper after he forced Joshua Calvert into a mistake and further confusion with goalkeeper Mitchell allowed him to nip in and slot home.

Mayor's support for hockey fest

THE Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Steve Waltho will try his hand at hockey this weekend to show his support for efforts to get more people into the game.

To coincide with British Hockey's 'hockey fest', Dudley Ladies Hockey Club is offering women the chance to try the sport for the first time or even return after time out.

Coaches and players will be on hand to teach new skills, set up mini games and inspire people to get back into hockey.

The session will run from 1-3pm on Saturday at The Dell Stadium in Bryce Road, Brierley Hill. All equipment will be provided as well as refreshments afterwards.

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STOUR PEGGED BACK LATE ON

Stourbridge 2 Rushall Olympic 2

RUSHALL twice came from behind the earn a share of the spoils in this bank holiday derby clash.

And they almost sneaked the win deep in injury time, Glassboys keeper Lewis Solly pulling off an excellent save to keep out a fierce Luke Benbow effort to keep the score at 2-2.

The Pics goal led a charmed life and that continued a moment before the break when a Matt Dodd shot was deflected just the wrong side of the far post.

Lewis Solly was finally forced into a save five minutes into the second half when he kept out another point blank Benbow effort but it was the home side who broke the deadlock on 55 minutes when Chris Lait slotted home the loose ball after a Broadhurst free-kick had been parried by Dean Coleman.

Benbow was causing problems for the home defence and he hauled Rushall level on 71 minutes with a gem of a shot that cannoned off the crossbar and into the net.

Striker Kayelden Brown was one of three second half substitutes used by the Glassboys and within five minutes of taking the field he had restored their lead.

On 79 minutes he had a shot straight at keeper Coleman but a minute later he made amends with a thundering effort from the edge of the area.

But it was all square again two minutes from time, Rushall defender Jack Duggan heading in a Jordan Fitzpatrick corner.

Skelmersdale 1 Stourbridge 2
LEON Broadhurst's double helped Stourbridge to victory at Skelmersdale after playing the last 15 minutes with ten men.

Stour were stuck in traffic on the way up but started brightly.

The opener came from Broadhurst with a header from a Chris Lait free-kick 20 minutes in. Tom Tonks also hit the crossbar in the first half.

Broadhurst's second came halfway through the second half when he unleashed an unstoppable left-footed free-kick from the edge of the box after Kristian Green had been pulled down.

Chris Knight was sent off towards the end, pulling Danny Mitchell down in the area. The striker converted the penalty.

Hosts maintain grip on title



Himley's Nigel Davenport celebrates his club's floodlit win at their home ground

HOSTS Himley were able to retain their grip on the Joe Brandrick trophy as they defended their Black Country Floodlit T20 title.

Wolverhampton were this year's beaten finalists as their innings of 182 proved not to be enough with Himley securing a six wicket victory.

The tournament runs over five days and is the brainchild of Himley skipper Greg Wright.

Stourbridge and Brewood were the other clubs that entered the five-day tournament, which sees three nights of action under the floodlights, including an invitational match on the Thursday evening.

A 'Birmingham League XI' takes on a side

put together from each of the Staffordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire feeder leagues.

Club chairman Gordon Lewis insisted the event was getting bigger and bigger. He said: "There were over 500 fans at Friday's final cheering the lads on. It's a cracking event and really well-supported."

"Its reputation is growing so much that it is now one of the stand-out competitions of the season."

"There's a lot of graft that goes in to ensure it goes ahead."

"We knew 182 wasn't going to be enough for Wolverhampton."



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